

Inside Wrestling

SURVIVOR SERIES SCANDAL!
What They Didn't Tell You!

MARCH 1994

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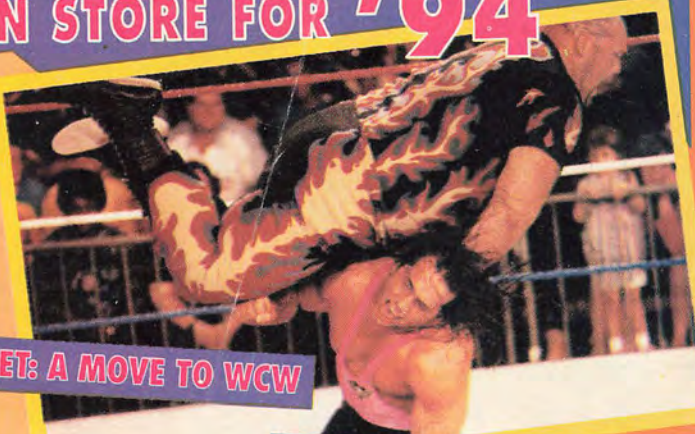
Inside Wrestling Predicts: WHAT'S IN STORE FOR '94



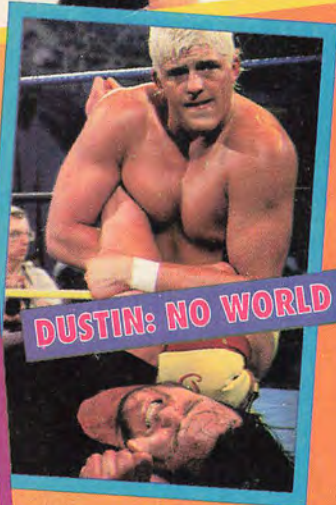
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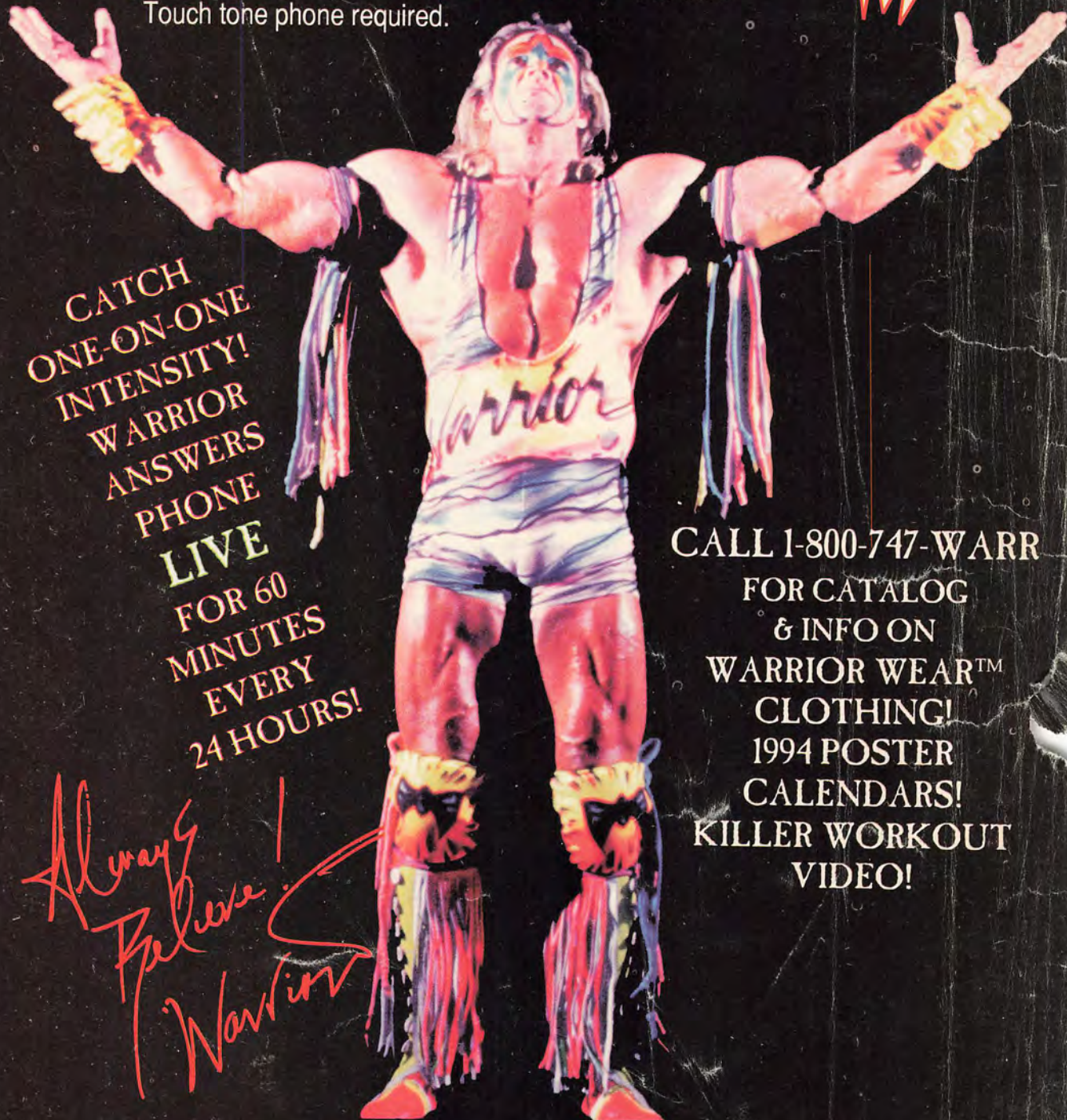
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Inside Wrestling®

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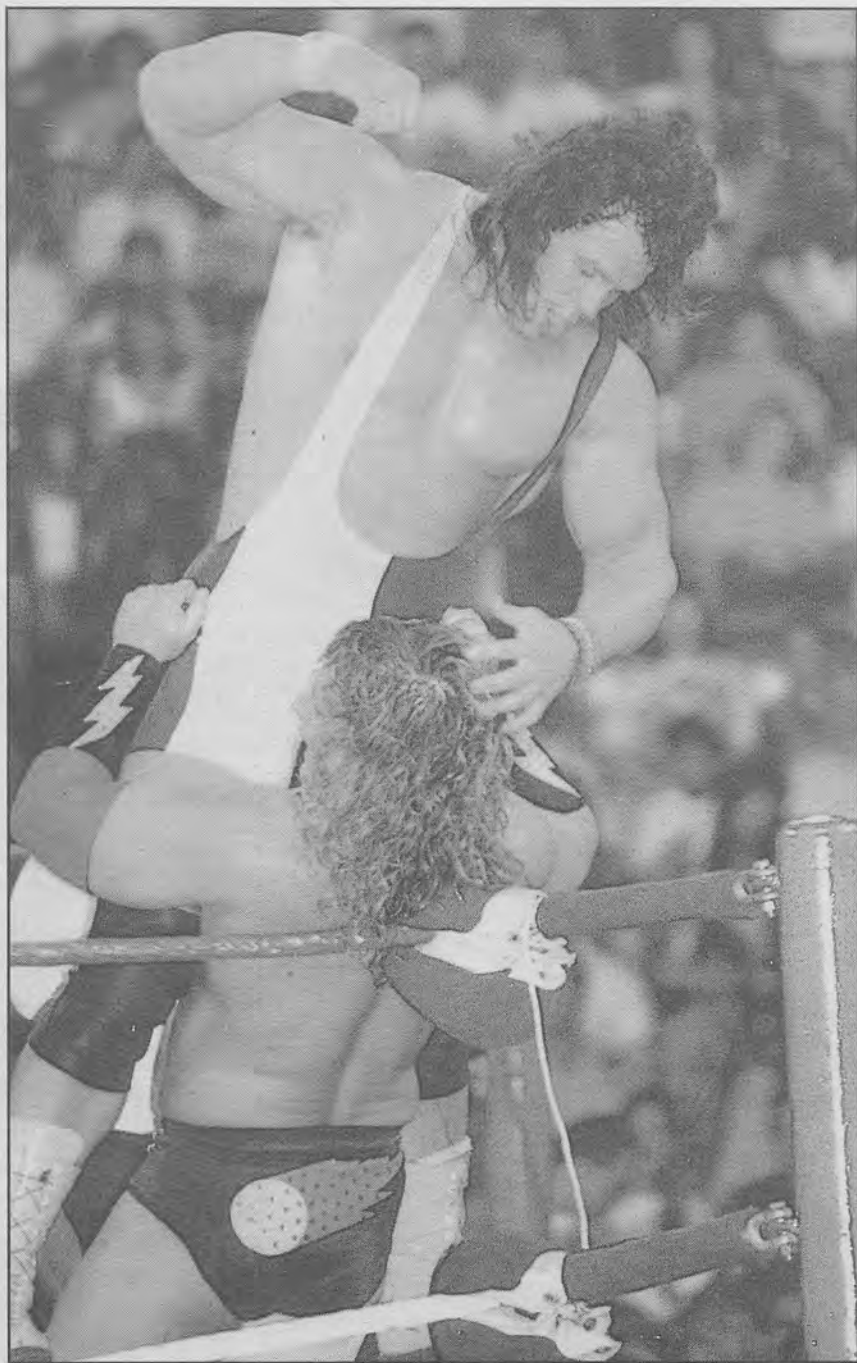
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Sincerely Yours

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SHAKE THOSE BODIES

When I read about the emergence of manager Jim Cornette and former Smoky Mountain tag team champions The Heavenly Bodies in the WWF, I absolutely thought that Rick and Scott Steiner's title was in danger. But after watching the Bodies' woeful effort against the Steiners at SummerSlam, I reconsidered.

I expected the Steiners to be crushed, but they weren't, and I have a few ideas why. I think that before this move, Jimbo ought to have brought Stan Lane back into the team, as he was the toughest man. Jimmy Del Ray is a relative newcomer, so I don't know how the "Louisville Lip" could have brought him in. In my opinion, Tom Prichard and Del Ray didn't mesh as well as Dr. Tom and Lane did.

The Bodies should return to SMW, end their slump, then go full force at The Quebecers and take the WWF belts before The Bruise Brothers beat them to it.

PETER KOWALCZYK
Middlesex, England

NEXT HOGAN? FORGET IT

I have been reading your family of magazines for seven years, and for over half that time, editors and writers have been predicting the "next Hulk Hogan." Actually, I've been getting a bit tired of this, but I guess the writers like "playing the expectations game," as Andy Rodriguez would say.

Still, hasn't this been the second or third time this honor was given to Lex Luger alone? Ultimate Warrior got that honor, and now he's retired from wrestling. Sid Vicious was given this stigma; need I say more? As far as Randy Savage being a "next Hulk Hogan," Savage is one

Scott Steiner corners The Heavenly Bodies' Tom Prichard during SummerSlam '93. In reader Peter Kowalczyk's opinion, the Bodies might have beaten the Steiners had Stan Lane still been Prichard's partner rather than Jim Del Ray.



Randy Savage never became "the next Hulk Hogan," but instead established his own legacy. According to reader Rich Stagnato, today's better competition makes it virtually impossible for someone to follow in Hogan's footsteps.

of the only wrestlers I know of to surpass all and establish his own myth, legacy, superstardom, and grand crowd following. Fans everywhere always root ecstatically for the "Macho Man."

Wrestling is now in the 1990s. It is impossible to have another Hogan. No wrestler can have any more four-year reigns. It is true that Hogan was great in the ring, but the competition was not as intense. There are a new breed of wrestlers today who have discovered the secrets of success. Wrestlers are more intense now, and there is always one on a roll and priming. Additionally, wrestlers are leaving tag teams for singles competition.

Because of this, a champion's reign is considered great if it goes six months, like Bret Hart's title reign. As this is written, Yokozuna is going on month number five. Now, a champion's reign will be measured in months, rather than years. A Bruno Sammartino eight-year reign is a thing of the past, and a four-year reign comparable to Hogan's is now a mere fantasy.

There will be no more long reigns similar to Hogan's. Thus,

when your magazines sit down and vote for a Wrestler of the Decade, it won't be like it was in the 1980s, when Hogan and Ric Flair dominated. By 1999, the winner probably won't get the four of seven votes to win. There will probably be such a difference of opinion that the winner will only get two or three votes.

Nevertheless, I'm sure I'll be reading about the next Big Van Vader, Sting, or Bret Hart.

RICH STAGNATO
Woodbridge, VA

BE-FYTCHED, BOTHERED, AND...

What does Dave Rosenbaum have against Tammy Fytch ("Witch Hunt! The 10 Wrestlers Tammy Fytch Wants To Put Under Her Spell," December 1993). I for one support her. Fytch is not a witch, but a successful woman in wrestling today. She's on

her way to be as good a manager as Sensational Sherri Martel was.

Brian Lee would probably be struggling in Smoky Mountain if not for Tammy. She should recruit Owen Hart and Scott Putski as a tag team; she would make them champs.

As for Tracey Smothers? By the end of the year, he'll surrender to Tammy Fytch when he realizes that he can't beat her. Smothers will have no choice but to join forces with her.

Tammy Fytch will own Smoky Mountain Wrestling.

JENNIFER A. TURRELL
Davison, MI

ROYALLY REGAL

I must take exception to your biased analysis of the Fall Brawl '93 Rick Steamboat-Lord Steven Regal WCW TV title bout ("Fall Brawl '93: Pride Is The Greatest Incentive Of All," January 1994), where you claimed that "[Steamboat] lost to an inferior wrestler." Inferior?! Surely

(Continued on page 56)



Perhaps Sir William helped Lord Steven Regal defeat Rick Steamboat for WCW's TV title. However, reader Harry Simon maintains that Regal's scientific skills make him the federation's finest wrestler.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

Wrestling fans are very down on Owen Hart for turning against Bret Hart at the Survivor Series on Thanksgiving eve. But most of us who have older brothers can relate to the frustrations that led to the outburst.

Jerry Brisco knows. He is the younger brother of Jack Brisco, who held the NWA World title for about 2½ years in the mid-'70s.

"It wasn't easy," said Jerry when I visited him recently at the Brisco Brothers Body Shop in Tampa. "I can count on one finger the number of articles written about me that Jack wasn't also mentioned. Let's face it: It's hard to become a professional wrestler, and having a famous older brother or a father in the sport makes it easier to get in. But to stay there and to succeed, that you have to do on your own."

And that takes a great deal of hard work, dedication, and sacrifice. To give all of that and to still be known to the world as "Bret Hart's brother" or "Jack Brisco's brother" could be extremely difficult.

Jerry Brisco was a very fine wrestler. After attending college mat power Oklahoma State on a wrestling scholarship, he turned pro and won a variety of regional titles. But he didn't win the NCAA championship Jack won at Oklahoma State and he didn't win the World championship Jack won as a pro.

"I guess if you want to say it," Jerry told me, "I never did escape the shadow of my brother, and I can say that it hurt inside."

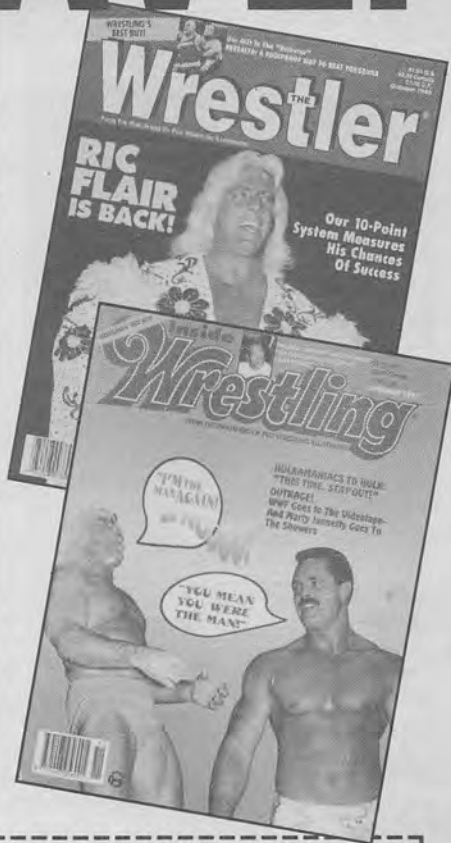
Enough to physically attack his brother? "No," he said, "it never came to that. But it's different for everybody. Owen is not me."

More importantly, Owen is not Bret. When he learns to live with that fact, he may find his inner peace.

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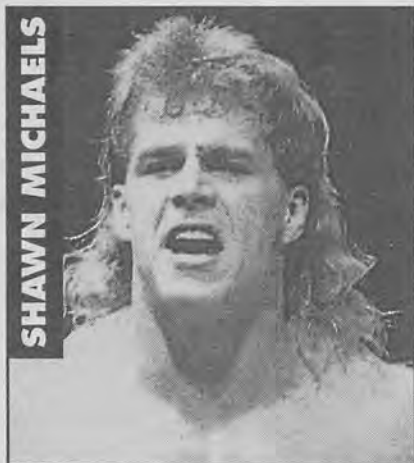
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NAMES MA

SHAWN MICHAELS



A FAMILY FEUD was briefly simmering in the WWF. The Survivor Series match pitting **Bret Owen**, **Bruce**, and **Keith Hart** against **Shawn Michaels** (replacing **Jerry Lawler**) and three masked **Knights** was supposed to be about family pride. Instead, it temporarily tore Owen and Bret apart.

Owen was dominating Michaels and company when he mistakenly bumped into Bret, who was injured on the ring apron. Bret went careening to the floor and hit a steel railing. A stunned Owen was then rolled up and pinned by Michaels. Though the Harts won, Owen was in no mood to celebrate. He yelled at and shoved Bret and adamantly refused to even discuss the situation.

Things cooled down the following week. Owen apologized at a TV taping in Springfield, Massachusetts, and Bret was even in Owen's corner for several bouts. However, was this a permanent reconciliation or a mere rest from hostilities? We'll wait and see.

Former Intercontinental champ Michaels, meanwhile, has targeted current titleholder **Razor Ramon**

since being reinstated in the WWF. He interfered in a **Ramon-Diesel** match on *Raw*, then brutalized the "Bad Guy" with several "Razor's edges" after Ramon came to help **The Kid** in his match vs. Michaels.

Lex Luger seems to have won his feud with **Ludvig Borga**. He's dominated the Finnish nightmare in singles competition, winning most matches with the aid of the steel plate in his forearm, and led his "All-Americans" to victory at the Survivor Series over Borga's "Foreign Fanatics."

Let's hope Luger will finally get his hard-earned rematch with WWF World champ **Yokozuna**.

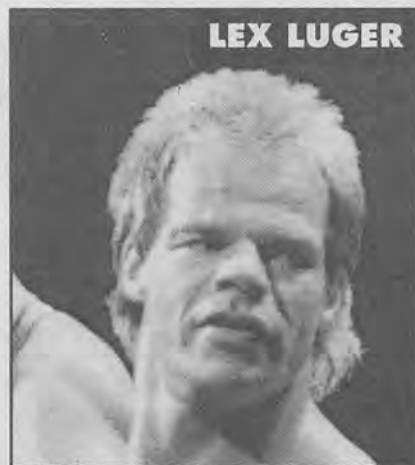
Can you imagine **Bastion Booger** as a fan favorite? That odd transformation is happening. You might think he's disgusting, but he's also someone I think fans could really learn to love. How can you not appreciate a wrestler who takes time out for turkey at Survivor Series?

Good to see **Jeff "Double J" Jarrett** getting some long overdue national exposure in the WWF. Jarrett came to the federation as a rulebreaker, however, and he's not exactly pop-

ular in Memphis these days, either. He captured the USWA belt after **Randy Savage** was stripped. To do so, he had to beat old friend Lawler; both had become finalists for the title by surviving a battle royal.

Jarrett pinned Lawler with his own feet on the ropes. At the time, Jarrett

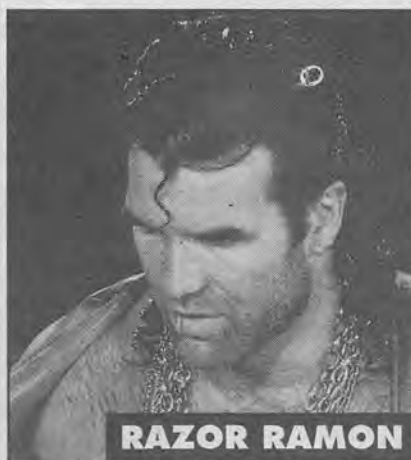
LEX LUGER



and **Brian Christopher** were USWA tag team champs. Before their defense against **PG-13**, Jarrett said he cared more about his singles belt and abandoned his partner. A confused Christopher was manhandled by his opponents, who won the belts. (They have since been knocked off by **Mike Anthony** and **Jeff Gaylord**.)

Now Jarrett is rumored to be joining **Toni Adams'** camp. Adams was recently forced to eat dog food after proteges **Rex Hargrove** and **Koko B. Ware** lost a match. Must have made for a wonderful meal around Thanksgiving!

In WCW, everyone is still talking about the **Big Van Vader-Ric Flair** war. It was Vader who, en route to winning the Battlebowl battle royal, sent Flair to the dressing room on a stretcher. The power-bomber (with



RAZOR RAMON

KIN' NEWS

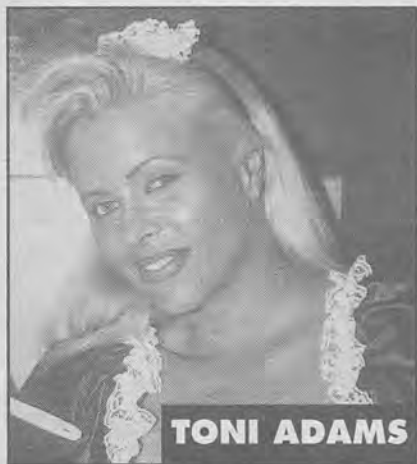
By Bill Apter

help from **Harley Race**) brutalized the "Nature Boy" on the runway outside the ring.

Flair got revenge in an odd way a week later. He defeated *Race*, who filled in for his man on several cards in Florida. What matches they had a decade ago!

What about some of the odd pairings the "Lethal Lottery" created at Battlebowl? Vader and crazed rival **Cactus Jack** made a decent team once they put aside their many differences.

Wasn't it strange seeing WCW TV champ **Lord Steven Regal** and former titlist **Rick Steamboat** on the same side? "The Dragon" obviously thought so. He didn't allow Regal to use **Sir William's** umbrella on **Shockmaster**, who was paired with



TONI ADAMS

Paul Orndorff. Instead he grabbed it, smashed Regal, and allowed Shockmaster to splash and pin his Lordship.

Looks like both **Ron Simmons** and **Paul Roma** are changing their tunes. Roma's been teaming with **Paul Orndorff** at TV tapings; he has probably seen his last days as a Horseman



REGAL & DUNDEE

(see "One On One," page 54). An irate Simmons beat up Battlebowl partner **Keith Cole** after they lost to **Sting** and **Jerry Sags**. Sadly, maybe turning rulebreaker will revive their careers.

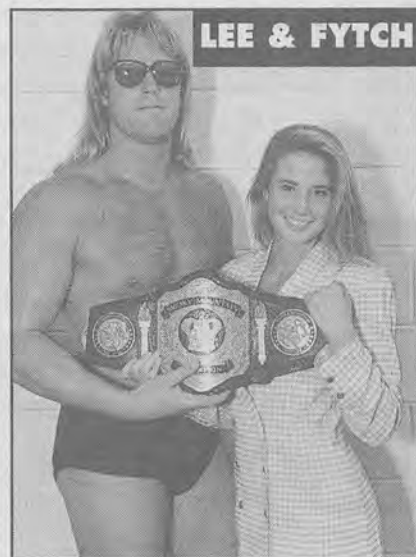
In Smoky Mountain news, **Brian Lee** is still champ. He withstood the challenge of **Tracey Smothers** and is now holding his own against the equally tough "Dirty White Boy" **Tony Anthony**. Those battles have featured the side attraction of **Tammy Fytch**, Lee's manager, trying to outwit "Dirty White Girl" **Kimberly**, who has rejoined Anthony's camp. Kimberly would love to get Fytch in the ring for a match, but I think Tammy realizes she's better off on the sidelines.

The Heavenly Bodies are back on top. They got help from **Jim Cornette's** tennis racket in dethroning **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** at the WWF's Survivor Series. The new and improved **Bruise Brothers** are waiting for them, though. They've done well against the Bodies so far in a series of "gang fights."

An odd addition to SMW is the

mummified **Prince Kharis**. **Daryl Van Horne's** charge has taken care of business so far in a feud with **Tim Horner**.

You've probably heard of some of the recent developments occurring outside the ring. WWF head **Vince McMahon** was indicted on charges of



LEE & FYTCH

possession of steroids and conspiracy to distribute them. If convicted, McMahon could face up to eight years in prison and hefty fines. A May trial date has been set.

Also, at press time, it was still unclear whether statutory rape and sodomy charges against Jerry Lawler had been dropped. He was accused by a 13-year-old Louisville, Kentucky, girl, but the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* subsequently printed a story indicating that the girl had recanted her story.

Let's all hope these legal matters are cleared up, so we can worry only about what's going on *in the ring*.

That's all for now. See you at the matches!

WHEN VINCE MCMAHON interfered in a USWA title match involving Jerry Lawler several months ago, the two seemed destined to meet in the ring. It now appears that any bout between them may be a steel cage match.

The month of November was not kind to McMahon and Lawler, two of wrestling's larger-than-life characters, who may have discovered that they are not larger than the law. McMahon, the head of the WWF, was indicted on charges of dispensing steroids to his wrestlers. Lawler, "The King" of the USWA, was indicted on charges of raping and sodomizing a 13-year-old girl in Kentucky. Both men entered pleas of not guilty.

McMahon is having a bad decade. In 1991, his public relations department was nearly pinned by a trial where former WWF physician Dr. George Zahorian was sentenced to three years in prison for selling steroids to pro wrestlers. In 1992, there were rampant allegations of sexual misconduct and drug abuse in the federation by former wrestlers such as "Superstar" Billy Graham and "Doctor D" David Shultz. This year, it is McMahon himself who is fighting to lift his shoulders off the mat.

Lawler's situation is equally disturbing. Unlike McMahon, his name has never been linked to any illegalities or hanky-panky. He is among the most popular celebrities in the city of Memphis, home of the USWA. If convicted, he faces a maximum of 41 years in prison and the destruction of a mini-empire he has spent most of his life building and renovating.

While it should be noted the charges brought against both these men occurred in America, where people are innocent until proven guilty, indictments do not come from supermarket

ON THE ROAD

With Chris Bernucca

tabloids. They come from grand juries, who weigh the amount of evidence and determine if there is enough to warrant charges against the defendants.

The outcome of both cases could have a disastrous effect on wrestling, particularly in the WWF, whose fan base is largely comprised of young, impressionable children. Any sense of impropriety perpetrated by these men who are worshiped as heroes could weaken support for wrestling.

To make matters worse, this comes at a time when wrestling—which has always had cyclical box-office highs and lows—is in a low cycle.

Could McMahon have dispensed steroids to his wrestlers? He has admitted that he took steroids when they were not illegal, thus making him stupid enough to do just about anything. Some of the more serious side effects attributed to the muscle-enhancing drugs include heart and liver problems and strokes. On a lesser scale, there is also persistent acne and a simmering hostility present in most users (known in the vernacular as "roid rage").

Forgive the nuance of sexism, but the best way for a man to simulate a menstrual cycle is to take steroids. (Studies have also shown the drugs stop the body's natural production of testosterone, thus often leading to breast development and diminished ... guys, you can guess the rest.)

Of course, common sense was pinned by addiction on Saturday morning. These opinions come to you from someone who barely makes it to a seated position on the side of the bed before taking a long, hard drag on the first of the day's 20 cigarettes. The alleged use of steroids in the WWF is more about deception than addiction.

(Continued on page 59)



Vince McMahon & Jerry Lawler

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Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum



Shawn Michaels (against Keith Hart) is feuding with the Hart family due, in large part, to Bret Hart's successful lobbying to have Michaels stripped of the Intercontinental title. Bret was upset that Michaels refused to give him an I-C title shot.

WELL, IT'S THAT time again. Time to play one of my favorite games, one I play every so often in this column and in "No Holds Barred" in *The Wrestler*. It's where I take a news item, present my gut reaction, and counter it with the informed reaction.

Ready? Let's go!

NEWS ITEM: Shawn Michaels replaces Jerry Lawler in a Survivor Series match against the Hart family. Michaels displays tremendous hatred for the Harts. The Canadian clan vows revenge.

GUT REACTION: Since when is Shawn Michaels feuding with Bret Hart?

INFORMED REACTION: Back in September, Michaels was stripped of the Intercontinental title for reasons that were never made clear. WWF President Jack Tunney cited Michaels' failure to meet certain contractual obligations, but did not spell out the violations. The I-C belt was put up for grabs and Razor Ramon won it by defeating Rick Martel.

According to WWF insiders, Bret Hart lobbied intensely for Tunney's action after Michaels missed several title defenses. In particular, the

"Hitman" was angry that Michaels refused to give him a title shot, even though Hart is a former I-C champ.

Weeks after being stripped of the belt, when Michaels found out about all this, he lodged a formal complaint with WWF officials and launched a rather inane verbal diatribe on Hart. He made several prank phone calls to the Hart home in Calgary, Alberta, and sent a bouquet of dead flowers to Helen Hart.

When Lawler was indicted on rape and sodomy charges, and subsequently removed from WWF cards, Michaels offered to step in. In fact, Michaels originally offered to be one of Lawler's "Knights" at the Survivor Series.

NEWS ITEM: Dusty is back.

GUT REACTION: Boy, is that ever a straight line! Speaking of guts, Dusty Rhodes' return to semi-active duty at Clash of the Champions XXV was one of the most revolting events of 1993. Why can't this guy just step aside and let

his deserving son have the spotlight to himself? Hasn't Dustin lived in his chubby father's shadow long enough?

INFORMED REACTION: Dusty *isn't* back. Although he and The Assassin had a brief tussle during Clash XXV, the inside word is that neither man wants to embarrass himself in a regular match. The reason is simple: Both are in the worst shape of their lives. Dusty has been a regular on the Southeast barbecue circuit since his retirement, while The Assassin can often be found chowing down on sacks of triple cheeseburgers at McDonald's.

"Dusty hasn't done an ounce of exercise in over a year," said a WCW source. "The Assassin can hardly keep his belt buckled."

In other words, Dusty and Assassin went about as far—and as long—as they can go at Clash XXV. A 15-minute match would be completely ludicrous.

"The ambulance boys would have

(Continued on page 58)

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30. Chest Kick 31. Chickenwing Crossface 32. Choke
33. Circle Kick 34. Clothesline 35. Cobra Clutch 36. Com-
bination 37. Cradle Suplex 38. Cross Ankle Pickup
39. Crucifix Cradle 40. DDT 41. DDT from Top 42. Dbl.
Arm Suplex 43. Dbl. Chickenwing 44. Dbl. Earslap
45. Dbl. Leg Drop from Top 46. Dbl. Temple Chop 47.
Death Drop 48. Diving Headbutt 49. Dragon Punch 50.
Drop Kick from Top 51. Drop Kick Oppt. Off Top
52. Eagle Split 53. Ear Scream 54. Eat Turnbuckle
55. Elbow Smash 56. Eye Gouge 57. Face Manipula-
tions 58. Face Spit 59. Fig. Four Pin 60. Fijian Splash
from Top 61. Fire 62. Fist Drop 63. Flipping Hamstring
Pull 64. Flying Burrito 65. Flying Cradle 66. Flying Drop
Kick 67. Flying Fist 68. Flying Hammerlock 69. Flying
Kick 70. Flying Knee Drop 71. Flying Mare 72. Flying
Scissor Kick 73. Flying Tackle Clothesline 74. Flying
Thrust Kick 75. Forearm Smash 76. Frankenstein
77. Frontal Legrip 78. Full Power Slam 79. German
Suplex Hold 80. Giant Swing 81. Gorn Buster
82. Groin Drop on Ropes 83. Groin Punch 84. Guillotine
Drop 85. Gutwrench Suplex from Top 86. Hair Twisting
Face Smash 87. Hammer Throw 88. Handspring Elbow
89. Haymaker 90. Head Scissors 91. Head to Apron
92. Head to Rail 93. Headbutt from Top 94. Headbutt to
Groin 95. Heel to Groin 96. Hook 97. Human Torture
Rack 98. Indian Deathlock 99. Inside to Outside
Bodypress 100. Inverted Atomic Drop 101. Jab
102. Japanese Suplex 103. Jump Kick 104. Jumping
Clothesline 105. Kamikaze Dive 106. Karate Chop from
Top 107. Karate Punch 108. Kidney Punch 109. Knee
Wrencher 110. Knee from Second Rope 111. Knee to
Back from Top 112. Knife Edge 113. Leaping DDT
114. Leg Drop 115. Leg Sweep 116. Leglift 117. Lever-
age Punch 118. Loaded Glove 119. Lowerback Fore-
arm 120. Manager Interference 121. Mexican Roll-up
122. Moepoke 123. Moonsault Press 124. Neck Drop
on Ropes 125. Neckbreaker 126. Nipple Twister 127. Oc-
topus Hold 128. Oklahoma Stampede 129. Oriental
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eraman 140. Rail Clothesline 141. Ram Headbutt
142. Rapidfire Drop Kicks 143. Rear Drop 144. Reverse
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Mat 152. Rope Burn 153. Running Dbl. Axe Handle
154. Running Knee Drop 155. Russian Hammer
156. Russian Sickle 157. Samoan Drop 158. Savate
Kick 159. Scorpion Deathlock 160. Senton from Top
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Block 164. Shoulder Pole Ram 165. Shoulder Tackle
166. Showboating 167. Side Suplex 168. Single Leg
Boston Crab 169. Slap 170. Slide 171. Slingshot Suplex
172. Snake Bite 173. Snap Mare 174. Snap Power Slam
175. Snap Suplex 176. Spinebuster 177. Spinning
Clothesline 178. Spinning Toehold 179. Stair Ram
180. Standing Drop Kick 181. Stepover Toehold
182. Stomach Elbow 183. Stomach Headbutt from Top
184. Stomach Kick 185. Strangle Slam 186. Sucker
Punch 187. Sunset Flip from Top 188. Superplex
189. Surfboard 190. Temple Kick 191. Throat Cross
Chop 192. Throw into Cameraman 193. Throw into
Photographer 194. Throw over Top 195. Thrust Kick
196. Tie into Ropes 197. Tiger Knee 198. Timebell to
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the **Insider**

by Eddie Ellner

(The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.)

RECENT EVENTS REMIND me of when I was a college sophomore. My roommate and I flew to Las Vegas to attend the Larry Holmes-Muhammad Ali heavyweight title fight. We boarded Ali's private jet and were shuttled by limousine to a suite at Caesars Palace.

The person responsible for these luxurious accommodations was my roomie's sister, who worked for Muhammad Ali Sports Inc. Her job was to inform fans of the round, which she did by prancing around the ring with a small numbered card while dressed in a gold lame G-string. It took but a round or two to fathom what a valuable asset she was to the organization.

Though Holmes was the undefeated WBC champion, the preflight hype, as usual, centered on Ali. Could the legend capture another crown? Could he turn back the clock? Parties went late into the night, but were weak preambles to the bashes that would celebrate an Ali victory. As one worker told me, "If Muhammad wins, this town will explode and disintegrate."

Sounded like fun.

The night of the fight, Scott and I rooted hard for an Ali victory—and not just for its party value. This was one of those special nights where great warriors force time to stand still. Ali, slower, stiffer, would some-



Muhammad Ali's magnificent 17-year track record led people to give him the benefit of the doubt when he challenged heavyweight boxing champion Larry Holmes in 1980. Alas, Ali had nothing left and was kayoed in the 11th round.

how find a way to defeat his younger and stronger opponent. How? No one knew. It just had to happen.

What followed was among the most one-sided fights in heavyweight history. When it was mercifully stopped in the 11th round, Ali seemed drunk, an ugly portent of his present condition. In the sober aftermath, it seemed like such folly to imagine Ali ever had a fighting chance. How could we not have seen the contest for the mismatch it was?

We didn't want to. Over 17 glorious years, Ali had earned the right for us to believe in him. He had defied conventional wisdom so often we had to, as a courtesy, give

him the opportunity to work another miracle.

We had both entered an irrational, unnatural covenant. And afterward, as Ali was attended to by doctors (who insisted he retire; he didn't and went on to lose another fight, no doubt worsening the Parkinson's already rampant in his system), and Scott and I searched vainly for a party, we both paid a price.

As I write this, another ring legend will soon put his career on the line. I think Ric Flair has a better chance against Big Van Vader than Ali did that night against Holmes. But in the cold logic of my mind, I think he'll be lucky to

(Continued on page 60)

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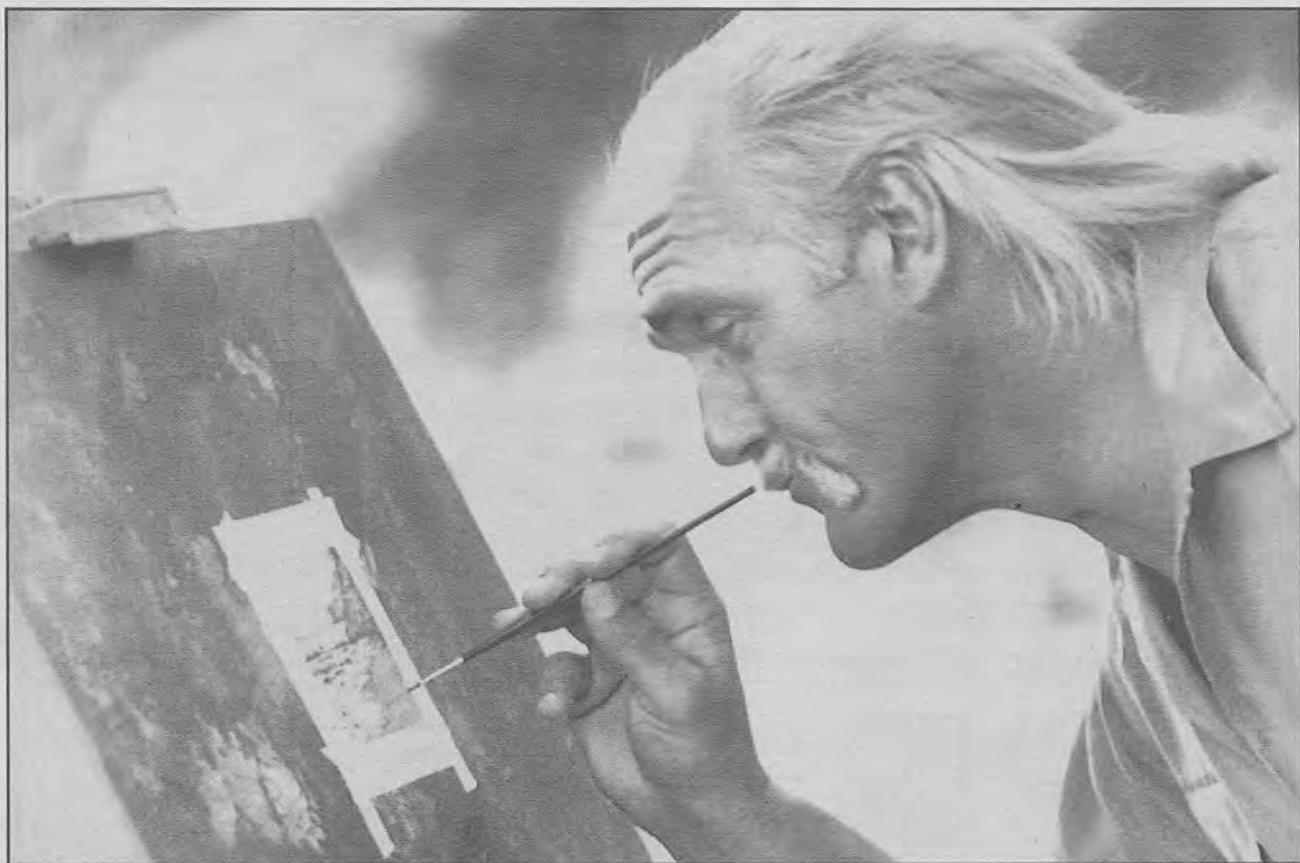
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ON Assignment

By Liz Hunter



THE HIGHEST-PAID sports figures in 1993 owed their riches more to commercial performance than they did to athletic achievement, according to a list compiled by *Forbes* magazine.

Michael Jordan won this scoring championship, earning an estimated \$36-million—88 percent of it coming from endorsements. His nearest basketball competitor, sixth-ranked Shaquille O'Neal, made \$11.9-million of his \$15.2-million income from commercials. All but \$100,000 of 11th-rated Arnold Palmer's \$11.1 million came from lucrative endorsements. Likewise, tennis great Andre Agassi, ranked 20th, earned \$8-million off the court, but only \$400,000 on it.

People who only perceive professional wrestlers as huge, uncouth brawlers must have been shocked to see Hulk Hogan's artistic side on a famed deodorant commercial.

There are two women in the top 40. At number 15 is Steffi Graf, who earned \$2.8-million playing tennis and \$7-million selling tennis stuff. Rival Gabriela Sabatini, rated 35th, cashed in for \$6.5-million, \$5.5-million of it through smiling for the cameras.

Not surprisingly, not a single woman wrestler even made the top 100. What is surprising is that neither did any male wrestlers.

"Wrestlers are very difficult to market," said super sports agent Oliver B. Maynard. "Their images change so often, companies are reluctant to try anything but one-shot deals with them."

While Jordan's universal charisma can sell anything, the product line Sid Vicious or Undertaker can hawk is limited. "Advertisers need to feel safe and secure about the celebrity in front of the camera, next to their product," Maynard said.

"Say Acme Apple Pie determined through market research that Sgt. Slaughter could really sell its product. They hire Slaughter and build a campaign around him. They buy millions of dollars of ad space on TV and in magazines. Then a week after the campaign breaks, Slaughter

(Continued on page 62)

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INSIDE WRESTLING CAPSULE PROFILE

TOM PRICHARD

"DR. TOM," A veteran of Southern wrestling, now is dominating Smoky Mountain as part of the tag team champion Heavenly Bodies (*"Jim Del Ray and I are having the time of our lives!"*) ... Jim Cornette's favorite tag team made plenty of news in 1993, appearing on a pair of WWF pay-per-view cards. In the latter, they recaptured the SMW belts from The Rock 'n' Roll Express at Boston Garden (*"Bet those Puritans never saw that kind of action before"*) ... Prichard and Stan Lane came under Cornette's wing when SMW was founded in 1992; Lane left last spring and Del Ray took over (*"We never missed a beat. Jim complements me perfectly"*) ... At only 5'10" and 220 pounds, Prichard is one of the smaller wrestlers around, but he's a brawler and a martial arts expert (*"It's great to have size and strength, but it's no good if you don't use it properly. I use all I have to the fullest extent"*) ... The Houston native turned pro in 1978 and won his first belt three years later, the Nashville-based Mid-America TV title (*"Unquestionably a key learning experience"*) ... A decade later, he won the USWA Southern title on six separate occasions (*"I took on everyone*

and defeated them all") ... Was happy in the USWA, but when Cornette called and offered him a new challenge, he jumped at it (*"Anyone who would reject someone with Cornette's experience obviously isn't serious about his wrestling"*) ... Prichard and Lane won the initial SMW tag tournament on April 23, 1992, at Harrogate, Tennessee, defeating Jackie and Bobby Fulton (*"To win a federation's first title assures you some sort of immortality!"*) ... The Fantastics gained the belts August 8 of that year, only to have the Bodies win them back two days later (*"Just a blip on the screen, that's all they were"*) ... In November, Cornette's old nemeses, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, emerged in SMW and the tag title changed hands five times in 16 days, the last four times in a four-day span (*"I finally discovered why Jim despises Morton and Gibson so. Believe me, it's justified!"*) ... The teams continued their tug-of-war into



In spite of his size, Tom Prichard is among the best brawlers in the game. Since joining Smoky Mountain Wrestling in 1992, he has caused all sorts of havoc for opponents such as Scott Armstrong.

1993, and the reformulated Bodies were able to maintain control ... Cornette arranged for Prichard and Del Ray to face Rick and Scott Steiner, then the WWF World tag team champions, at SummerSlam ... They gave a fine showing in a narrow loss to the brothers (*"Before the match, the WWF rulebreakers jokingly called us hillbillies and other names. I think we earned their respect"*) ... Prichard awaits further innovations from the brilliant mind of Cornette (*"With Cornette's guidance, we're nearly unbeatable!"*) □



TOM PRICHARD

Where Are They NOW

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



KILLER KOWALSKI

Before retiring in 1977, Kowalski was known as one of the most tenacious rulebreakers in history. He has since been teaching his strategies to future generations at his professional wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts. In

his spare time, he promotes cards throughout New England to benefit local fire and police departments. "I'm doing well for myself, and I'm happy," said Kowalski, a vegetarian for more than 40 years.



NAILZ

The one-time nemesis of Big Bossman in the WWF is now on the independent circuit, where he's been a major success. "It's been a challenge, because the opponents know what you've accomplished and love to try to bring you

down a peg," he says. "But my number-one goal is to avenge all those humiliations Bossman has given me all these years. He should fall asleep every night knowing the final say will be mine, all mine!"



BARRY WINDHAM

The former NWA champion is currently in Florida recuperating from a serious leg injury he suffered last July during his title loss to Ric Flair at Beach Blast. However, the "Lone Wolf" is making plans for a comeback. "I'm getting

myself in the proper mental framework, and after that, the physical part should be easy," he says. "Any wrestler who crosses my path—and that includes Ric Flair—better prepare for the match of his life. I *will* be ready."



FABULOUS MOOLAH

The greatest woman wrestler in history, Moolah held the World title for a record 28 years. She owns a wrestling school in, South Carolina, and is delighted that the WWF has revived the women's title it discontinued in

1990. "They have a nice talent base with ladies like Madusa Miceli, Luna Vachon, and the USWA's Miss Texas," she says. "None of them are at the level I was during my prime, darlin', but they're still superb wrestlers."

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ACTUAL QUESTIONS

Hulk Hogan hails from which California beach community?

- 1) Malibu
- 2) Pacific Heights
- 3) Venice Beach
- 4) Newport Beach

At what University did Ron Simmons play football?

- 1) Notre Dame
- 2) Florida State University
- 3) Michigan State University
- 4) Oglethorpe University

True or False: Giant Gonzales competed in the 1984 Olympics as a member of Argentina's water polo team

- 1) True
- 2) False

The Undertaker was once tag team partners with...

- 1) Lou Albano
- 2) Sergeant Slaughter
- 3) Rick Steiner
- 4) None of the above

How did you do? If you're up for the challenge and want to put your wrestling knowledge to work, call now and go for the \$250!

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Call as often as you like. The contest begins December 1, 1993, and continues through January 30, 1994. There is no age restriction to participate. The charge for each call is \$1.49 per minute. The contest is sponsored by Advanced Telecom Services and London Publishing Co. in connection with Pro Wrestling Illustrated. No purchase necessary to participate. Void in MN, NJ, LA, GA and where prohibited by law. All unclaimed prizes will be awarded via second-chance drawing. The odds of winning are dependent upon the number of entries. For complete rules and mail-in entries are available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **PWI TRIVIA**, P. O. Box 625, Devon, PA 19333. To win, answer seven consecutive trivia questions correctly and you automatically qualify for the monthly drawing of one \$250 winner. From December 1, 1993 until January 30, 1994, a total of 60 game cartridges, 10 posters, and 10 key chains will be awarded. The game cartridges will be compatible with one of the following systems: Nintendo (retail value \$50), Super Nintendo (retail value \$60), Game Boy (retail value \$30), or Genesis/Sega (retail value \$55). London Publishing Co. will select the winners and, at its discretion, select the game cartridges to be awarded. Game cartridges, posters, and key chains are provided courtesy of **Electro Brain Corp.** **Electro Brain Corp.**'s involvement in the contest is limited to offering the game cartridges, posters, and key chains only. No substitutions allowed.

NEWS FROM THE WR

DAVIE, FL
BY PETER KELMER



RIC FLAIR
VS.
HARLEY RACE



This match originally was to be Flair vs. Big Van Vader, but the WCW World champion bowed out due to injury. However, his veteran manager filled in to face the "Nature Boy." The fans at the Rodeo Arena appreciated Race's effort in the ring. However, Flair gradually wore him down to earn the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Frankie Lancaster beat Mark Starr ... 2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell beat Tex Slazenger & Shanghai Pierce ... WCW TV champ Lord Steven Regal beat Paul Roma ... Steve Austin and Brian Pillman battled to a double-countout ... U.S. champ Dustin Rhodes beat Paul Orndorff ... Sting & Brian Pillman beat Lord Steven Regal & Steve Austin ... Rick Rude defeated Rick Steamboat.

KNOXVILLE, TN
BY ALAIN DECOLORES



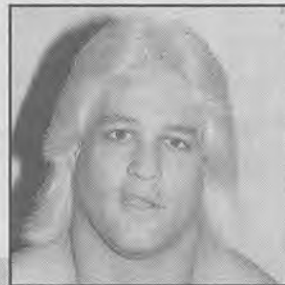
BRIAN LEE
VS.
TONY ANTHONY



With Lee's Smoky Mountain heavyweight title on the line against the "Dirty White Boy," the action was furious. At one point, Anthony went after Lee's manager, Tammy Fytch, and captured her purse. That move turned out to be his undoing, however. Anthony decided to use the purse as a foreign object, and was thus disqualified.

OTHER BOUTS: Bobby Blaze pinned Chris Candido ... Prince Kharis beat Tim Horner ... The Bullet beat Kevin Sullivan by disqualification when Killer Kyle interfered ... In a non-sanctioned event, The Rock 'n' Roll Express and The Moondogs battled to a no-contest ... In a street fight, The Bruise Brothers defeated The Heavenly Bodies when Jim Del Ray was unable to answer a 10-count.

MEMPHIS, TN
BY PHIL SEAWRIGHT



BUDDY LANDELL
VS.
DUTCH MANTEL



These two veterans went at it for Landell's Southern title at Mid-South Coliseum. The action was intense, so much that both men would not listen to the referee's instructions. They continued their battle outside the ring—and both were counted out.

OTHER BOUTS: Del Rios beat The Wolfman ... King Cobra beat Warlock by disqualification ... Little Eagle beat Midget D ... The American Eagles beat Phi Delta Slam ... Jeff Gaylord & Mike Anthony beat tag team champs PG-13 to win the title ... In the WWF women's title tournament, Madusa Miceli defeated Allison Royal ... Jerry Lawler defeated SMW champ Brian Lee by disqualification ... Rex Hargrove beat Brian Christopher by disqualification ... Brian Christopher and Jerry Lawler beat Rex Hargrove & Reggie B. Fine.

ESTLING CAPITALS

**MONTREAL, QUEBEC
BY CONSTANTINE MAROIS**



**DOINK THE CLOWN
VS.
SHAWN MICHAELS**



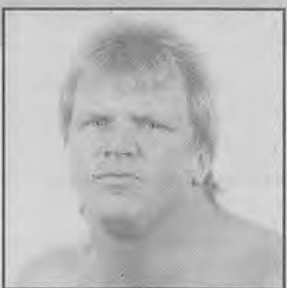
Michaels continued his inspired comeback by challenging Doink, with the Forum crowd definitely in the clown's corner. The two-time former Intercontinental champion appeared on the verge of beating the jester, but current I-C titleholder Razor Ramon came to Doink's rescue by distracting Michaels. The clown then pinned the stunned Michaels.

OTHER BOUTS: Tiger Jackson defeated Little Louie ... The Headshrinkers beat The Smokin' Gunns ... Owen Hart defeated Bastion Booger ... The Undertaker beat World champion Yokozuna by disqualification when Mr. Fuji interfered... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon defeated Diesel ... Rick & Scott Steiner beat World tag team champions The Quebecers by disqualification.

**ORLANDO, FL
BY SHIRLEY SWERT**



**DAVEY BOY SMITH
VS.
BOBBY EATON**



Smith had recently failed in his quest to win a title on home soil when WCW toured the U.K., though he defeated WCW World champion Big Van Vader by disqualification on several occasions. He took out his frustration on talented veteran Eaton before an enthusiastic capacity crowd at the Walt Disney/MGM Studios for a taping of *WCW Worldwide*. The "British Bulldog" dominated the action from the opening bell, and had little trouble defeating his rival after several minutes. He was hopeful that the victory would earn him additional title shots in the future.

OTHER BOUTS: Ron Simmons defeated Brad Armstrong ... Ric Flair defeated Crusher Kong ... Cactus Jack & Maxx Payne defeated Paul Orndorff & Paul Roma by disqualification.

**SYRACUSE, NY
BY RAY BRUBAKER**



**RICK STEINER
VS.
QUEBECER JACQUES**



A nagging injury to Quebecer Pierre forced this scheduled World tag team title match to change to singles status. Many French-Canadians made the long drive south to the Onondaga County War Memorial to cheer on countryman Jacques, but the "Dogfaced Gremlin"—by no means a stranger to singles competition—overcame this disadvantage and gradually wore down his foe. Steiner eventually was able to finish off Jacques with his famed "Steinerline" clothesline.

OTHER BOUTS: The Kid defeated Johnny Polo ... Doink the Clown defeated Mike Sharpe ... Lex Luger defeated Ludvig Borga ... Owen Hart defeated Adam Bomb by disqualification ... The Headshrinkers defeated The Rock 'n' Roll Express ... In a cage match, Bret Hart beat Shawn Michaels. □



Matt Brock's **Plain Speaking**

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

Stu Saks had two passes to the ECW card here. The trouble was, I wanted them and Liz Hunter wanted them, so we decided to go together: Talk about a mismatch. Liz kept complaining about the muffler on the Chevy Nova I rented. She wanted to sit up front, I wanted to stay in my usual spot, toward the back. I bought a couple of pretzels to munch on, Liz complained that the mustard kept dripping on her

outfit. Women. Go figure. Things went steadily downhill from there. Both of us were there to see Sherri Martel wrestle Madusa Miceli, but Miceli didn't appear because she had recently signed with the WWF. Wish I had known that. We just about knocked each other out running to Martel's dressing room for a comment. As luck would have it, I shouldn't

PHILADELPHIA, PA



MADUSA MICELI

have wasted my time. They let Liz in, but I was stopped at the door by some ruffian with a 25-inch neck. Explain this one: Women can go into men's locker rooms, where the wrestlers are walking around in all their glory, but men can't get into women's locker rooms. Then Hunter wouldn't even share her quotes with me. "Do your own homework, Brock," she said. By this time, I knew it was a lost evening. I dropped Liz off at the Amtrack station and headed south. Next time Saks has free passes, maybe I'll pass 'em up.



JAKE ROBERTS

Jake Roberts seems pretty comfortable on the independent circuit. He was here tonight wrestling Mr. Hughes and looked pretty good. Maybe he wouldn't have been quite as fortunate against his original opponent, Road Warrior Hawk, but Hawk didn't show. That makes two no-shows in two nights.

ESSEX, MD

These are hard times for wrestling. Roberts won and basically ignored me when I asked him about his plans. "I don't care about the WWF or WCW," Roberts said, stuffing his snake back into its pouch. I'm heading back up I-95; the Nova is due back in Philly tomorrow morning.

They're planning on tearing down Boston Garden in a few years and building another one of those cookie-cutter cement-and-plastic contraptions people call a modern arena. But maybe somebody with half a brain will reconsider after Thanksgiving weekend here. There was hockey and basketball in the ol' building all weekend, but the main event was wrestling on Thanksgiving Eve. Maybe this isn't what the Pilgrims and Indians had in mind, although I wouldn't be surprised if they did a little bit of grappling on that first Thanksgiving. Somehow, while destroying every other worthwhile tradition in wrestling, Vince McMahon has managed to keep one alive. Not that he didn't try to kill this one, too. The Survivor Series wasn't the Survivor Series last year, just an overblown everyday arena card. Fortunately, Vince came to his senses and revived the original format. It was great watching the Boston crowd boo Quebecer Jacques, as if he and Pierre were why the Canadiens win Stanley Cups and the Bruins don't. All and all, the best match on the card was the Smoky Mountain tag team match between The Rock 'n' Roll Express and The Heavenly Bodies.

Maybe McMahon missed out on Cornette vs. Morton and Gibson by about seven years, but Cornette still knows how to rile up some tempers, and the Rock 'n' Rolls sure know how to take an insult. Naturally, Cornette's trustworthy racket got into the picture when "Gigolo" Jim Del Ray jumped off the top rope

BOSTON, MA



TOM PRICHARD VS. RICK MORTON

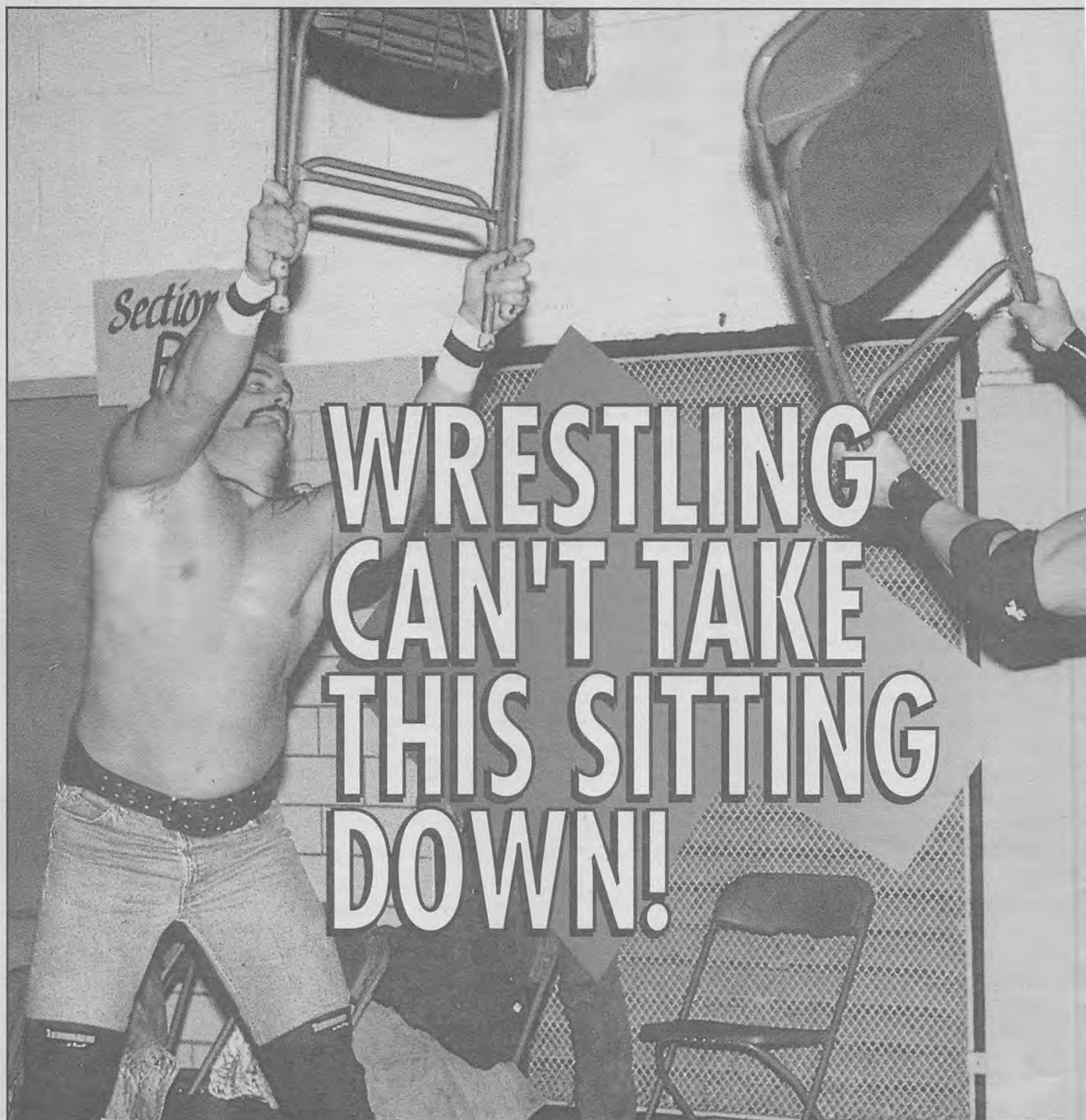
and smashed Gibson across the back. Prichard scored the pin and the Bodies had the belts. Just one question for the Rock 'n' Rolls: Having feuded with Cornette for so long, how come they're not more wary of his tennis racket? Cornette's teams have been beating the Rock 'n' Rolls the same way for the past 10 years, but Morton and Gibson never adjust. You could've heard a pin drop in the Garden when the Bodies won, but the reaction was thunderous when Lex Luger won the Survivor Series. I was saying the same thing about Sid Vicious just about a month ago, and look where it got him. I hope Luger is wiser, although I'm not so sure.

Back in the big city three days after Thanksgiving, trying to recover from as bad a three-week span as there's even been in wrestling history. That's saying a lot, but believe me, I've been through enough to know. Here are the facts. **October 28:** Sid Vicious and Arn Anderson get into a scissors fight in their Blackburn, England, hotel. Both are out of action indefinitely. **November 12:** Jerry Lawler is indicted on charges

of rape and sodomy of a 13-year-old girl in Kentucky. **November 18:** Vince McMahon is indicted on charges of illegal distribution of steroids. Wrestling needs this like a hole in the head. But let's get right down to brass tacks: McMahon—well, there's so much to say about him, I don't have the space here. He's rich and arrogant and Vince Sr., bless his soul, must be turning over in his grave. Lawler—well, he's been one of the most popular athletes in Memphis for about a century. Vicious is a rising star who always runs into a career dead end, while Arn is one of the toughest men alive, respected by virtually everyone in the wrestling community. I can see Vicious and Anderson going at it; they're strong-willed people. But using scissors? They both crossed over the boundaries into the land of stupidity. Maybe this is premature, because I'm sure he'll attempt a comeback, but maybe it's time to put the lid on Vicious' career. The kid is just bad luck. Remember *The Natural*? Vicious has a silver bullet in his chest. □

NEW YORK, NY

CHAIR & CHAIR ALIKE:



Dueling chairs: Horace Boulder (left) and Mike Awesome hold their weapons high, preparing to inflict damage. If they're lucky, the chairs will collide in mid-air, and nobody will get hurt!

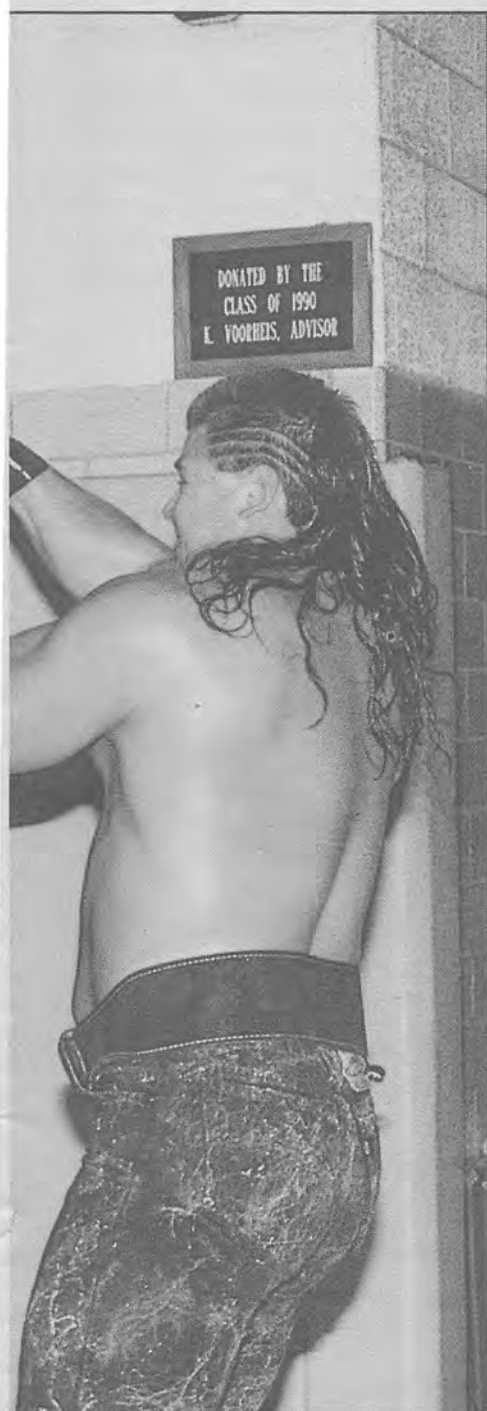
By Chris Bernucca

NOVEMBER 27, 1991: The Undertaker captures the WWF World title from Hulk Hogan after piledriving him onto a chair placed in the ring by Hogan nemesis Ric Flair.

January 25, 1992: USWA tag

team champions The Moondogs raise numerous welts and split open the back of an unnamed preliminary wrestler with repeated shots with a metal chair.

October 10, 1992: Following a loss to C.W. Bergstrom and Jesse Barr at a Championship Wrestling USA card, The Bruise Brothers



use a chair to break the left arm of Bergstrom.

May 23, 1993: WCW World champion Big Van Vader is disqualified after using a chair to pummel challenger Davey Boy Smith.

Do you sense a trend here?

The use of chairs as foreign



In the hands of veteran rulebreakers like Abdullah the Butcher and Terry Funk, a chair is potentially lethal equipment. This seat was designed for innocent people to sit in, not to draw out Abdullah's blood.

objects in wrestling matches has gotten way out of hand. It seems as if every third card has a match marred by the use of a folding

been a victim of chair attacks on several occasions. "A well-placed chair shot can cripple a wrestler as effectively as the best piledriver or submission hold.

Wrestling is tough enough without your opponent swinging a chair at you."

"I have no respect for anyone who uses a chair," said Jeff Jarrett, another competitor who is no stranger to the pain of a blow with a chair.

"When a wrestler

uses a chair, it tells me two things about him. One, he has no faith in his skills. Two, he has no respect for the rules of wrestling, which date back to Greek and Roman days."

Harley Race differs. "Anyone who doesn't consider a chair shot upon entering the ring is asking

The spreading use of chairs is sounding alarms all over the sport. But as the rulebreakers continue to cause mayhem, the rulemakers continue to hit the snooze button. To wake them up, it may cost a superstar his career

seat at ringside. Besides being illegal, they are downright dangerous and can shorten or end the career of the wrestler on the receiving end. At the very least, they take the luster of what could be a very promising match.

"There is no place for them in this sport," said Sting, who has



Tasmaniac gets a metal slam to his left draw, courtesy of Tommy Dreamer. The damage hurts, no matter whether you're a fan favorite or a rulebreaker.

for it," said Race, who manages Vader. "It's part of the game, just like headlocks and clotheslines. Stay focused or stay at home."

According to USWA referee Frank Morell, he and his brethren in other federations are relatively powerless to stop the damage. "There's not much we can do," he said. "We can disqualify the wrestler who uses a chair and report him to the commissioner. And we can do our best to dissuade him from using a chair. But a wrestler willing to use a chair, well, he stopped listening to referees a long time ago."

An impromptu survey provided no surprises. Most fan favorites feel the chair has no place in wrestling. Most rulebreakers wavered on the legalities of its use and agree that it is a necessary evil. Most fans admit there is some extra thrill in a bout where a chair is involved, but understand its danger. And most arbiters wish there were more concrete rules regarding the use of chairs.

What can be done? Well, a number of things, although the

removal of chairs from ringside isn't one of them. Nearly every arena that houses wrestling does so on its basketball or hockey rink. Because the wrestling ring is far smaller than either of those surfaces, the space between the fixed seating and the ring is filled in with removable folding chairs. Because they are closest to the action, these are the most expensive seats in the house. No building leaser or promoter is going to cost himself tens of thousands of dollars in order to minimize may-

or choking. And a chair blow can never be delivered without the entire arena having a clear view of the act.

Except, of course, by the referees. Men like Morell have taken a lot of heat for allowing themselves to become distracted long enough to miss a rulebreaker swinging a chair. In defense of his profession, Morell revealed something unknown to many fans.

"Yeah, we miss a couple here and there, and we should take the blame for those instances," he



Eastern Championship Wrestling has established itself as among the most violent of independent federations. Eddie Gilbert and Miguel Perez Jr. have also made it a place where any non-occupied chair can become a weapon.

hem. And hardcore fans would become less interested if they were unable to get within touching distance of their heroes.

But a chair is unlike other foreign objects in its size. It cannot be hidden inside a wrestler's trunks, like brass knuckles or a rope. The use of a chair is never unpremeditated, where some illegalities are, such as eye-gouging

said. "But we see most of them. My handbook says there's nothing I can do except call for the bell and disqualify the offending wrestler. I can only rule on the match. It's up to the commissioners to rule on the act."

One former commissioner did all he could, to little success. "We tried to take a stern stance on that type of behavior," said Bob Arm-



There is actually an expertise to chair-swinging. Knowing he'll probably get only one shot at it, Rick Rude will make sure the metal portion of the chair will come down on Paul Orndorff's head, not the cushiony part.

month without pay. *That* would probably get the attention of the rest of the grapplers.

"That's the only way it will stop," said Sting, who has some very strong opinions on the subject. "Suspend the offending wrestler for two months, no pay. That's more than 15 percent of his yearly income. That'll get his attention. Plus, two months on the sidelines would kill his competitive edge and give him a nice long time to think about what he did wrong.

"If he's a champion, don't suspend him, but strip him of his title. Take away his pride and joy. He'll find that he can't win belts by swinging chairs. He can only retain them that way.

Something's got to be done. Too many guys are getting hurt."

It seems the argument against chairs resembles the argument against artificial turf currently being waged in professional baseball and football. It may take a drastic event to invoke these drastic changes. In the NFL, most believe that until a true superstar like a Troy Aikman or a Jerry Rice is carted off the fake green stuff with a career-ending injury, it will be business as usual.

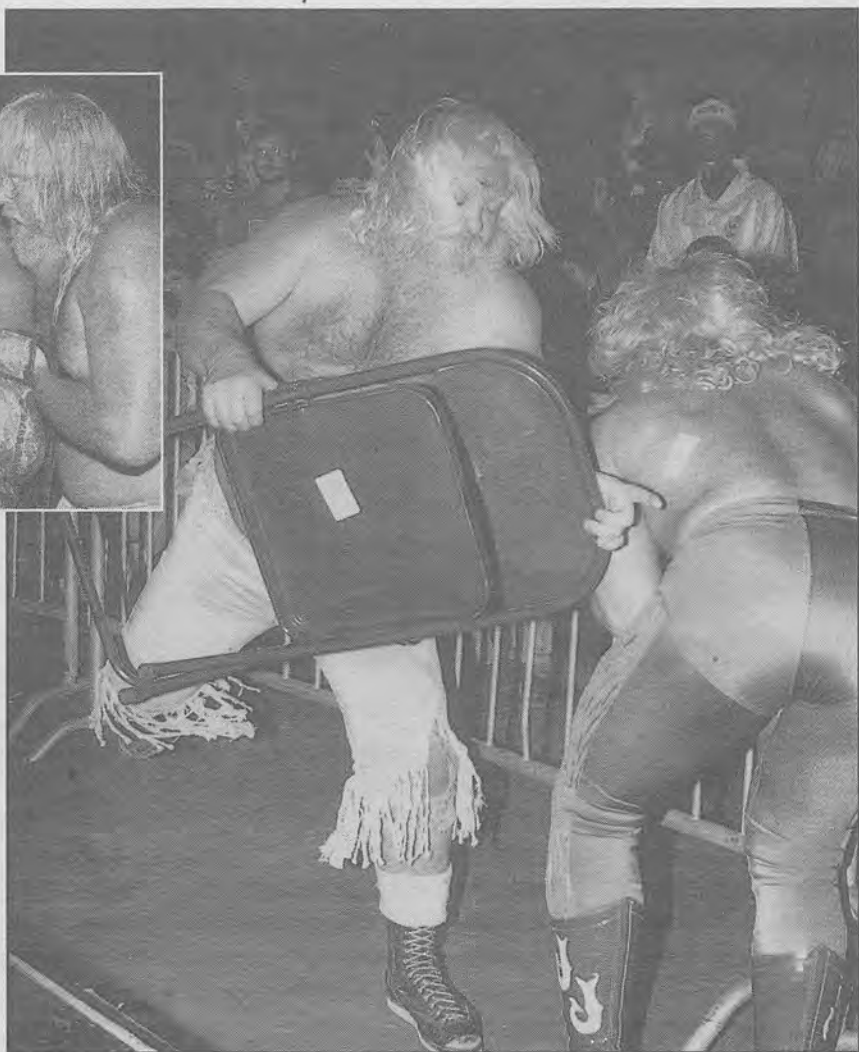
The same may hold true for wrestling. Sting's ideas make sense. Unfortunately, they will never be implemented until he himself, or someone of his stature, becomes a victim. □



The Moondogs are notorious for employing chairs, and once even used them to split open the back of a preliminary wrestler. Fortunately, they didn't achieve similar success against Jeff Jarrett (right). Manager Richard Lee found a use for a chair that we all can agree on (above).

strong, the former commissioner of Smoky Mountain Wrestling, a federation rife with the use of chairs as weapons. "But what are we going to do, suspend every wrestler in the promotion?"

No, but a commissioner could suspend the first offender for a



INSIDE WRESTLING PREDICTS:

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR '94

A popular cliché tells us to judge the

future by the past. We don't know if

that's a good idea, but INSIDE WRESTLING'S

peek into the squared circle's crystal ball

was made clearer by events late in 1993.

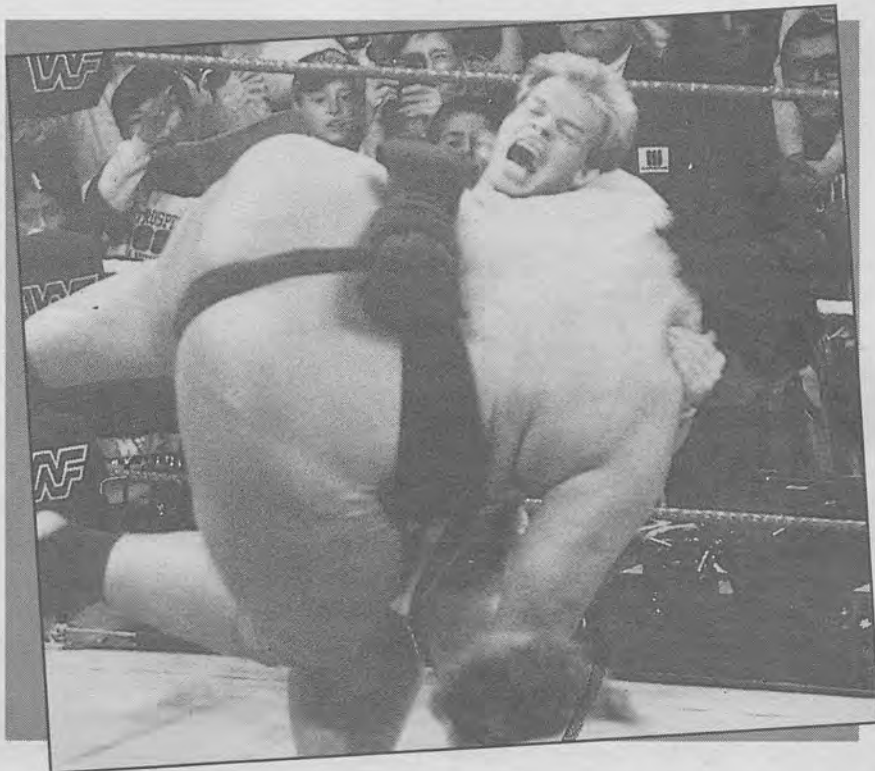
Here's what we saw:

LEX LUGER will finally win the WWF World title by defeating Yokozuna at **WrestleMania X** at Madison Square Garden. With **The Undertaker** in his corner, Luger will press Yokozuna above his head and slam him to the mat for the pin. A *real* victory celebration—not a contrived one like what took place after **SummerSlam '93**—will mark the passing of the WWF baton from **Hulk Hogan** to Luger.

Although he will continue to

Lex Luger did everything to Yokozuna at SummerSlam '93 except pin him. The star-span-gled Luger will finally accomplish that at WrestleMania X, as he'll join Flair and Buddy Rogers as the only wrestlers ever to win world titles in both the WWF and WCW.

deny all allegations, WWF head **Vince McMahon** won't be able to avoid the barrage of publicity surrounding his trial in New York City on charges of possession of anabolic steroids and conspiracy to distribute them. When the charges threaten to overshadow **WrestleMania X**—held only weeks before the trial is scheduled to start—McMahon will step aside from his duties on WWF broadcasts and take on a less prominent role in





Rick and Scott Steiner will win back the WWF World tag team belts, but won't hold them for long. The Headshrinkers, whose WWF success has been sporadic at best, will come on strong and dethrone the brothers.

federation matters. But even **Lex Luger's** title victory won't steal the headlines from McMahon's legal headaches.

Bret Hart, disheartened by his feud with brother **Owen Hart** and realizing his time as No. 1 man in the WWF is over, will sign with WCW. There, he'll team with **Davey Boy Smith**. The duo will waste no time steamrolling over the mediocre WCW tag team crop and igniting a feud with World tag team champions **The Nasty Boys**. Hart and Smith will win the belts in a best-of-three-falls match at **Halloween Havoc '94**. Immediately afterward, **Missy Hyatt** will call **Jerry Sags** and **Brian Knobs** "losers."

The Headshrinkers, suddenly powerful after years as a mid-level

Madusa Miceli and Luna Vachon have battled before, but their WWF rivalry will reach new heights. Their feud will be given co-main event status at SummerSlam '94, revitalizing women's wrestling.

tag team, will win the WWF World tag team title ... from **Rick and Scott Steiner**! The brothers will regain the belts from **The Quebecers** at **WrestleMania X**. After the match, **Samu** and **Fatu** will attack the Steiners. They'll meet in a co-main event at **King of the Ring**, and The Headshrinkers will come away with the belts. Weeks later, the Steiners' bid to regain the belts will be curtailed when Rick or Scott suffers another serious injury.

"Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony, always true to himself, will become a rulebreaker again, as will his **"Dirty White Girl," Kimberly**. This time, however, Anthony won't pretend to be a Northerner. He'll be a rotten ol' Southerner in yet another feud with **Tracey Smothers**. Anthony won't win the Smoky Mountain heavyweight title, but Smothers eventually will.

Madusa Miceli and **Luna Vachon** will engage in the hottest women's feud since the days of **Fabulous Moolah** and **Wendi Richter**. Miceli, always an outstanding all-around wrestler, will surprise Vachon with her viciousness, but Luna—backed by her famous wrestling family—will surprise Madusa with her talent. Miceli vs. Vachon will overshadow all WWF singles feuds with the exception of **Lex Luger** vs. **Yokozuna**. Miceli vs. Vachon will be a co-main event at **SummerSlam '94** as the feud sparks women's wrestling to new heights. We won't predict a victor, since neither of these ladies will give an inch.

Adam Bomb will battle **Razor Ramon** for the WWF Intercontinental title before finally winning

the belt by early summer. The twist in this powerhouse feud will occur sometime between now and then, as Bomb becomes one of the most popular wrestlers in the WWF and Ramon returns to his old rulebreaking ways.

Marcus Alexander Bagwell and **2 Cold Scorpio** will fall short in their bid for another WCW World tag team title. Soon after it becomes obvious Bagwell and Scorpio don't have what it takes to

SMW with lawsuits—and might actually receive an injunction from an out-of-area judge—before losing out. As his first order of business, Armstrong will ban Cornette from SMW, but won't ban **The Heavenly Bodies**. Cornette will then cause total havoc when he announces the Bodies will defend their SMW tag team title only on WWF cards.

Dustin Rhodes will retain the WCW U.S. title, but won't win the World title from **Big Van Vader**.



WCW's broadcast booth may increasingly resemble a WWF alumni meeting in 1994. Bobby Heenan, like "Mean" Gene Okerlund before him, could leave Vince McMahon for Ted Turner, following the lead of Jesse Ventura.

remain near the top of the tag team heap, the two friends will disappoint their many fans by feuding. The dissolution of the team will cause a shifting of power in the federation's tag team ranks, as Scorpio and Bagwell find new partners.

Bob Armstrong will regain his Smoky Mountain commissionership, despite **Jim Cornette's** protests. Cornette will threaten the

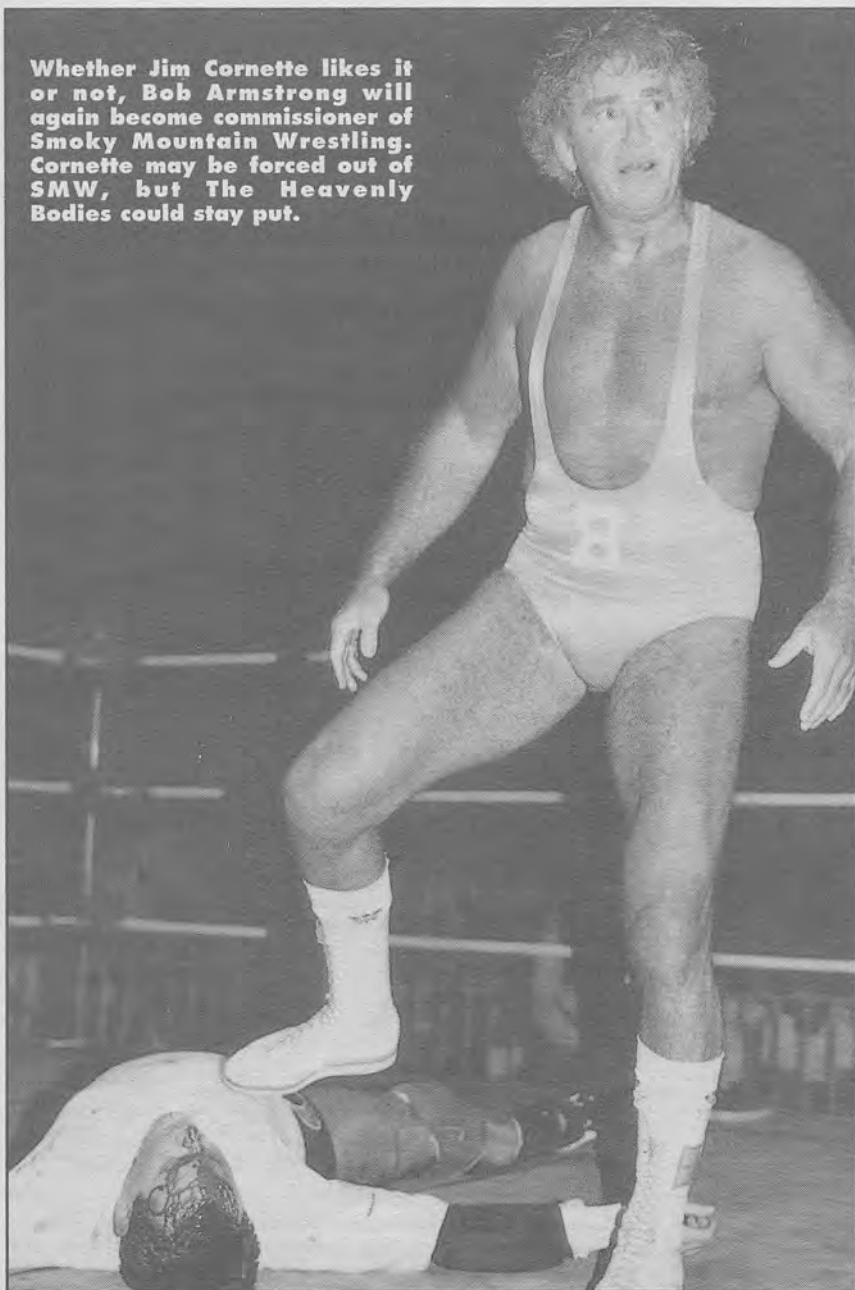
Rhodes' toughest U.S. title challenges will come from **Lord Steven Regal**, **Paul Roma**, and **Steve Austin**. Regal will lose the TV title to **Davey Boy Smith**, who will lose the belt to Roma. WCW will operate under a virtual two-tier system, with Vader, **Sting**, **Ric Flair**, and **Rick Rude** controlling the major titles, and Roma, Austin, Regal, and **Rick Steamboat** unable to join them.

Attempts at a WWF/WCW wrestler-exchange agreement will fall short as **Vince McMahon** concentrates on his court defense. Despite McMahon's legal problems, the WWF will emerge from 1994 as the most powerful federation in the world, thanks to its agreements with the USWA, SMW, and, beginning in 1994, the Global Wrestling Federation.

And don't be surprised if ... Interactive pay-per-view enables

fans to vote on matches battled to time-limit draws ... **Hulk Hogan** and **Sting**, friends after appearing together on Hogan's TV series, form a tag team ... **Lord Steven Regal** disappears from WCW and returns to London ... **Bobby Heenan** joins former WWF broadcasting mates "**Mean**" **Gene Okerlund** and **Jesse Ventura** in WCW ... **The Ultimate Warrior** signs with WCW and feuds with **Sid Vicious** ... **The Four Horsemen** break up for good. □

Whether Jim Cornette likes it or not, Bob Armstrong will again become commissioner of Smoky Mountain Wrestling. Cornette may be forced out of SMW, but The Heavenly Bodies could stay put.



PREDICTIONS '93: A REPORT CARD

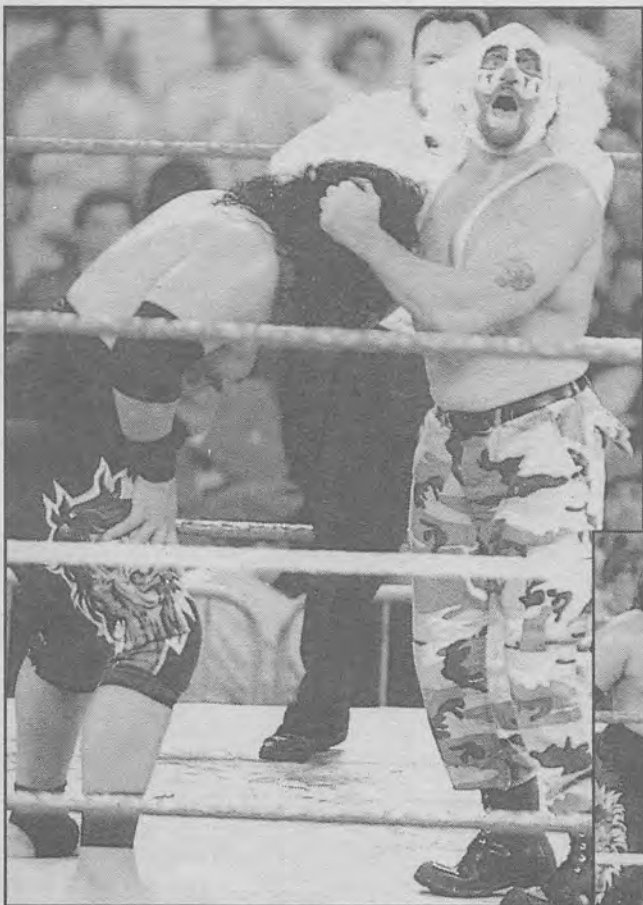
Our predictions for the past year appeared in the March 1993 issue of *The Wrestler*. Here's a report card of hits and misses.

ON THE MARK: Rick and Scott Steiner jumped to the WWF and won the tag belts ... Bob Backlund did find the going rough in his comeback and ultimately dropped out of title contention ... WCW signed Davey Boy Smith and used him to spread international interest in the federation. As expected, he contended for the WCW World title ... The WWF reached a wrestler-exchange agreement with SMW and the USWA ... Rick Rude lost the U.S. belt, but won the so-called "international world heavyweight title" ... Sting won his third WCW World title by defeating Big Van Vader (although not in the way we predicted) ... Hulk Hogan returned to the WWF but did not reform The Megapowers with Randy Savage.

OFF THE MARK: Razor Ramon didn't win the WWF World title, as we predicted, but he did win the Intercontinental title. Does close count? ... WCW didn't reach a wrestler-exchange agreement with any of the smaller federations ... Kerry Von Erich did not make a triumphant return. In fact, he made a tragic exit by committing suicide in February ... Brian Christopher did not win the USWA title from Jerry Lawler ... The Moondogs did, indeed, dominate the USWA, but failed to hold on to the tag belts ... Ric Flair did not win the WWF World title ... The Legion of Doom did not reform and did not win the IWGP tag team title ... The light heavyweight division did not return to prominence in WCW.

SURVIVOR SERIES SCANDAL

WHAT THEY DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT THIS EVENT WILL SHOCK YOU!



When Bushwhacker Butch was young, he dreamed of being a clown. He got his wish in the wrestling ring at Survivor Series, becoming one of four Doinks in a match against The Headshrinkers, Bastion Booger, and Bam Bam Bigelow.

What happened behind the scenes at the WWF's Survivor Series was far more intriguing than the televised event. The federation should give thanks that these four scandals weren't revealed—until now!



Mo of Men on a Mission also became Doink for a day, and celebrated by riding his scooter. He later joined the other Doinks—MOM's Mabel and both Bushwhackers—in simultaneously pinning Bigelow to win the match.

By Dave Rosenbaum

OWEN HART TURNED against his brothers with a verbal assault that brought his mother to tears and nearly succeeded in tearing apart wrestling's most successful family.

The 1-2-3 Kid survived while IRS, Razor Ramon, and Randy Savage were back in the dressing room.

"Gigolo" Jim Del Ray used Jim

Cornette's tennis racket to win the SMW tag team title for The Heavenly Bodies.

Four Doinks pinned one Bigelow.

If you were shocked by what happened during the Survivor Series on Thanksgiving Eve, just read on about four scandals that weren't uncovered by INSIDE WRESTLING until weeks after the event!

1. Doink the Clown was in the building.

That's right! Doink spent Thanksgiving Eve in Boston (and Thanksgiving Day, as well!) Of course, not one of the four Doinks was the real Doink.

Confused? So were we after watching Luke Doink and Butch Doink (The Bushwhackers) team with Mabel Doink and Mo Doink (Men on a Mission) in a Survivor Series match against Bam Bam Bigelow, Bastion Booger, and The Headshrinkers. The match ended when all four Doinks pinned Bigelow.

Then Bigelow—who should have been steaming-mad that the



Tom Prichard (left) and Jimmy Del Ray (above) outlasted The Rock 'n' Roll Express and regained the SMW tag team belts. The win, however, did not guarantee them a shot at the WWF World tag title, as they had originally hoped.

referee allowed four men to pin one man in what, to us, was a shocking rule violation—made his way back to the dressing room when he was confronted by Television Doink. That was the *real* Doink the Clown, beamed to Boston Garden through the miracle of modern technology.

Actually, it was no miracle. Doink had set up shop in the visiting basketball teams' locker room. There, armed with a WWF-sup-



Is Jim Cornette a manager who looks out for all rulebreakers? Hardly, if his behind-the-scenes actions at Survivor Series are any indication. He wanted the WWF's rulebreaking tag team champions, The Quebecers, stripped and the belts given to his Heavenly Bodies.

plied TV crew and a monitor that allowed him to see and speak with Bigelow, Doink successfully pulled off his federation-aided scam.

Bigelow never discovered that Doink was in the building, but protested to the WWF for allowing Doink this forum for public humilia-

tion. He also demanded to know Doink's whereabouts, to which a WWF spokesman responded: "We don't really know where he is."

The four Doinks and televised Doink conspiracy was another incident of

WWF bias toward fan favorites.

2. Jim Cornette negotiated for weeks with WWF officials for a tag team title match stipulation.

Cornette wanted it stipulated that if The Heavenly Bodies defeated The Rock 'n' Roll Express for the Smoky Mountain Wrestling tag team title, they'd receive shots at WWF World tag team champions The Quebecers. Cornette finally backed down when WWF officials insisted that the Rock 'n' Rolls receive WWF World title matches should they successfully defend the belts.

This is particularly interesting because it disproves the theory that Cornette is a rulebreakers' manager who is out to propagate rulebreaker domination of SMW and the WWF. The Quebecers are rulebreakers, but Cornette was willing to go over their heads for a title shot.

After the Bodies—"Gigolo" Jim Del Ray and Tom Prichard—won



Gorilla Monsoon, upset over his apparent demotion on recent WWF telecasts, took out his frustration on Bobby Heenan—probably because Heenan's humor has made "The Brain" more popular with fans.

the belts in a controversial finish, Cornette spoke to WWF officials about stripping The Quebecers of the belts and awarding them to the Bodies (The Quebecers hadn't defended the title in several weeks). Again, Cornette was quickly denied.

Also: SMW officials, while pleased to have their federation spotlighted on a major pay-per-view telecast, insisted on having a say in picking the referee. When the WWF refused and threatened to cancel the title match, SMW officials backed down.

3. Gorilla Monsoon's near-attack on Bobby "The Brain" Heenan during the Survivor Series telecast was actually an expression of jealousy.

Monsoon portrayed Heenan as the villain during this amusing incident, but in reality the two have been going at it for months. Monsoon and Heenan, though engaging and entertaining hosts on the WWF's *All-American Wrestling* program, hate each other.

Monsoon, once the WWF's top-gun on TV, has dropped to No. 4 man after being passed by Heenan, Vince McMahon, and newcomer Jim Ross. Heenan, despite his bias toward rulebreakers, is favored by fans for his sense of humor. McMahon, the federation head, has assumed a more dominant role on WWF telecasts. Ross, a WCW defector, is the finest blow-by-blow man in wrestling.

Monsoon can't understand why he has been put on the back burner. He is tired of Heenan's annoying heckling. Frustration over a fading career is what motivated Monsoon that night.

4. Lex Luger, the winner of the Survivor Series main event, offered The Undertaker a

bonus for eliminating Yokozuna.

Undertaker accepted and cashed in when he and Yokozuna were counted out of the ring. That left Luger and Ludvig Borga as the only survivors. Luger pinned Borga for the win.

If these serious accusations are true, they highlight Luger's insecurity and the incredible measures he'll take to become the Hulk Hogan of the 1990s. Luger basked in the spotlight after SummerSlam '93, even though his victory over Yokozuna was only by countout.

The amount of the bonus is

unknown. Undertaker and his manager, Paul Bearer, refused to comment. Luger also refused comment.

According to our source, Luger was concerned about being the focal point of an attack by two or more of his opponents.

"He was afraid of being the only member of his team left and having to take on Yokozuna and Borga," said our source. "The problem with these allegations is that there's no evidence of any money changing hands, and Undertaker seemingly put forth an honest effort." □



The Undertaker supposedly received a bonus from Survivor Series teammate Lex Luger for eliminating Yokozuna. It is rumored Luger feared taking on Yokozuna and Ludvig Borga simultaneously.



DIESEL & SHAWN MICHAELS' INNER ADMIT IT, YOU LOATHE

Not long ago, Shawn Michaels was Intercontinental champion and Diesel was his loyal bodyguard. When Michaels was stripped of the title, Diesel thrived on his own. Now Michaels is back and covets the I-C belt. One problem, though: So does Diesel!

RAGE: GUYS, EACH OTHER!

By Andy Rodriguez

THERE IS A story circulating around WWF locker rooms that when Diesel heard Shawn Michaels had returned to the federation, he ranted and raved and started smashing various objects with his very powerful hands.

There is another story that when Diesel heard of Michaels' return, he calmly shrugged his shoulders and walked away.

It's difficult to know which story is true. Both may be false, or the truth may lie somewhere in between. There is no doubt, however, that the relationship between Diesel and Michaels is tenuous at best, and dangerous for both at worst.

Neither expected it to reach this point. When Michaels was Intercontinental champion and Diesel his bodyguard, they





Shawn Michaels once employed Diesel as his bodyguard. They're both pursuing Razor Ramon's Intercontinental title (above). They may claim to be on good terms, but history shows that won't last. After all, Michaels still claims to be the real I-C champ (right).

had their arguments, but generally got along. Michaels knew that whenever he found himself in a tight spot, Diesel would gladly help bail him out.

Both had heard stories about bodyguards who ended up feuding with their bosses, but they were unfazed. They professed not even to be bothered by the Ted DiBiase-Virgil saga.

"If you were in a room with Shawn or with Diesel and you brought up the DiBiase-Virgil situation," said a friend of both wrestlers, "they would ignore you. They'd call it a totally different situation, that it didn't apply to them. They hardly took it seriously."

That attitude held firm, even when Michaels was stripped of the Intercontinental belt in September. He then had little reason to worry that his bodyguard would turn against him. Without his employer actively competing, Diesel received the green light to pursue his own goals. One goal was the



title Michaels had been forced to abandon. He didn't need to be concerned about crossing his boss.

Until now.

When Michaels made his surprise return to the federation just before the Survivor Series, not only did he target Bret Hart and his family, but he declared himself "the undisputed Intercontinental champ." He intended to retake the belt Razor Ramon had won in a tournament.

So now Michaels and Diesel want the same thing. Unlike

before, Michaels can't rely on Diesel to help him get it. Diesel is a rival, a very determined one.

However, there does not appear to be that much animosity between them. In fact, they lately have expressed much admiration for each other.

"Shawn tells me he doesn't think he would have been a great I-C champ without Diesel in his corner," said one friend. "Shawn usually doesn't give credit to others, but he was willing to give Diesel that credit—privately at least."

A former partner commented,

"Diesel likes and respects Michaels. He thinks Shawn has always been a good boss and a great wrestler, and he doesn't see any problem with him coming back. He says they can both do all right and not have to run into each other."

This is what Michaels and Diesel tell their friends. Nearly everyone else believes they are headed toward a major feud.

"They're both two of the most stubborn guys you'll ever want to meet," said one wrestler who has trained with both. "Neither is will-



Michaels should realize that while Diesel may sufficiently weaken Ramon, the hulking former bodyguard isn't doing it to ease Michaels' path to the Intercontinental title.

guy's gonna be right on his tail," predicted Jim Cornette, adviser to WWF World champion Yokozuna. "They can talk all they like about respect and friendship, but that will all go out the window in a hurry if one of them wins it. It's not like all of a sudden Michaels is going to say, 'Hmmm, maybe I better go after the World title now, because Diesel's my buddy.' It just won't work that way."

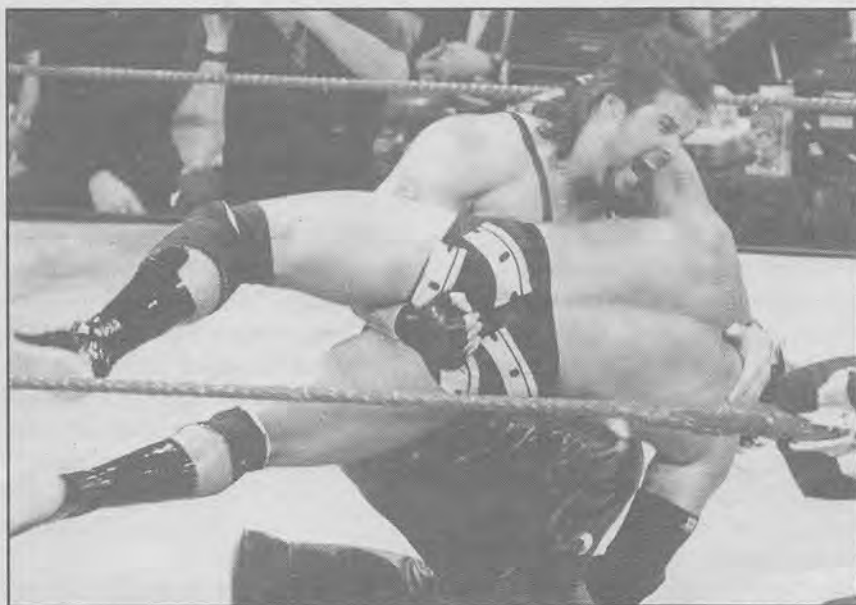
Cornette is right. Michaels won't back off, and neither will

stand aside, or to aid him in his quest. But Shawn is staying clear of Diesel. It's almost like he's afraid of starting something."

A friend of Diesel's commented, "At this point, you could never call Diesel Shawn's bodyguard. At the Survivor Series, for example, they each had their own matches. Diesel couldn't have cared less about what Shawn was doing. I think that whole bodyguard business ended when Shawn was stripped of the I-C belt. Diesel definitely is on his own now."

If there are the bad feelings between Michaels and Diesel almost everyone expects there are, both are doing a good job of hiding them. Michaels keeps calling himself the undisputed champ and insists his prime target is Ramon. Diesel also pursues Ramon, and maintains he has no quarrel with the man he once protected.

But who really believes them? □



If Diesel should somehow take the Intercontinental belt from Ramon, he'll still be a target of Michaels. Jim Cornette says respect and friendship "will all go out the window in a hurry if one of them wins it."

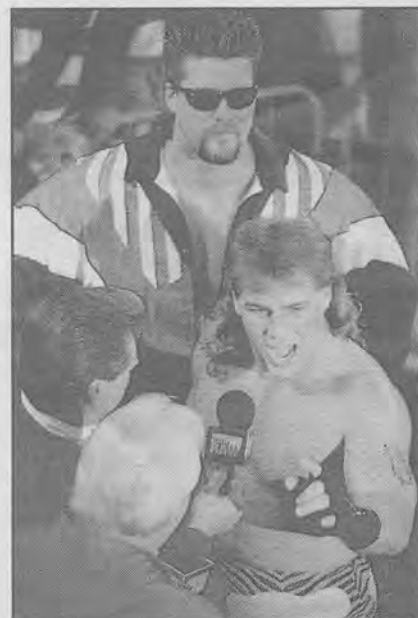
ing to give an inch, and they'll only go that far when it's to their absolute advantage. It won't be all sweetness and light when those chances for the I-C title come. They both want them equally."

While it's true both may get plenty of shots at Ramon's I-C belt, what will happen if either wins the title?

"Whoever wins it, the other

Diesel. Both have made it clear the Intercontinental title is their foremost goal. The World belt is the ultimate, but neither Michaels nor Diesel is prepared to challenge Yokozuna. It seems they'll have to challenge each other.

"It's funny," noted another WWF manager. "Officially, Diesel is no longer Michaels' bodyguard, but he could try to order Diesel to



Michaels needed Diesel as a bodyguard while he was I-C champion. But his brief suspension from the federation gave Diesel the green light to compete, and now he harbors his own title ambitions.



COL. ROBERT PARKER

"'STUNNING' STEVE AND THE SOUTH ARE RISING AGAIN!"



Col. Robert Parker believes he will manage Steve Austin to some sort of title. He tried to do likewise with Sid Vicious recently, only to have Vicious turn on him.

COL. ROBERT PARKER and Sid Vicious arrived together in WCW last spring. The pairing seemed promising because of Vicious' natural ability and strength and Parker's seeming intelligence. He was the debonair Southern gentleman who would smooth over Sid's rough spots.

But that didn't last long. Parker's first mistake was teaming Vicious with WCW World champion Big Van Vader, who Vicious should have been trying to dethrone. His next mistake was keeping them together, even though Vicious was

making no headway in the WCW ratings.

Parker made his biggest mistake of all at Halloween Havoc '93. Vicious was wrestling Sting when, during a key point in the match, Parker reached out for Sting's ankle. The Colonel got an ankle, but it wasn't Sting's; it was Sid's. Parker's faux pas cost Vicious the match, as well as their relationship.

But that didn't matter for two reasons: On October 26—only two days after Halloween Havoc—Vicious and Arn Anderson were injured during a scissors fight in a Blackburn, England, hotel. That put Vicious out of commission. Meanwhile, Parker was campaigning to manage The Hollywood Blonds, Brian Pillman and Steve Austin. When Pillman wanted no part of the manager, Parker convinced Austin to split with his partner. That's what happened, and a Pillman vs. Austin feud was born.

All this might lead an outsider to think Parker has done absolutely nothing productive since arriving in WCW. Judge for yourself. **Inside Wrestling** Senior Writer Dave Rosenbaum gave Col. Parker the third degree during a confrontational "Hotseat" interview.

Q: Let's start off with ...

A: Mr. Rosenbaum, you should feel honored.

Q: Excuse me?

A: You should feel honored. I turned down an interview with

Southern Living magazine so I could be with you today.

Q: *Southern Living* wanted to interview you? Why?

A: Why? Because I am obviously the epitome of the Southern gentleman. Tell me, have you ever toured the plantation estates of Charleston?

Q: Yes, I have. Speaking of which, *The Prince of Tides*...

A: And what did you think of them?

Q: *The Prince of Tides*?

A: No, you fool, the estates. Did you notice how they glittered? Did you notice how beautiful the grounds were kept? While Northern cities are crumbling to the ground, great Southern cities like Charleston are rising again.

Q: Then how do you explain Miami?

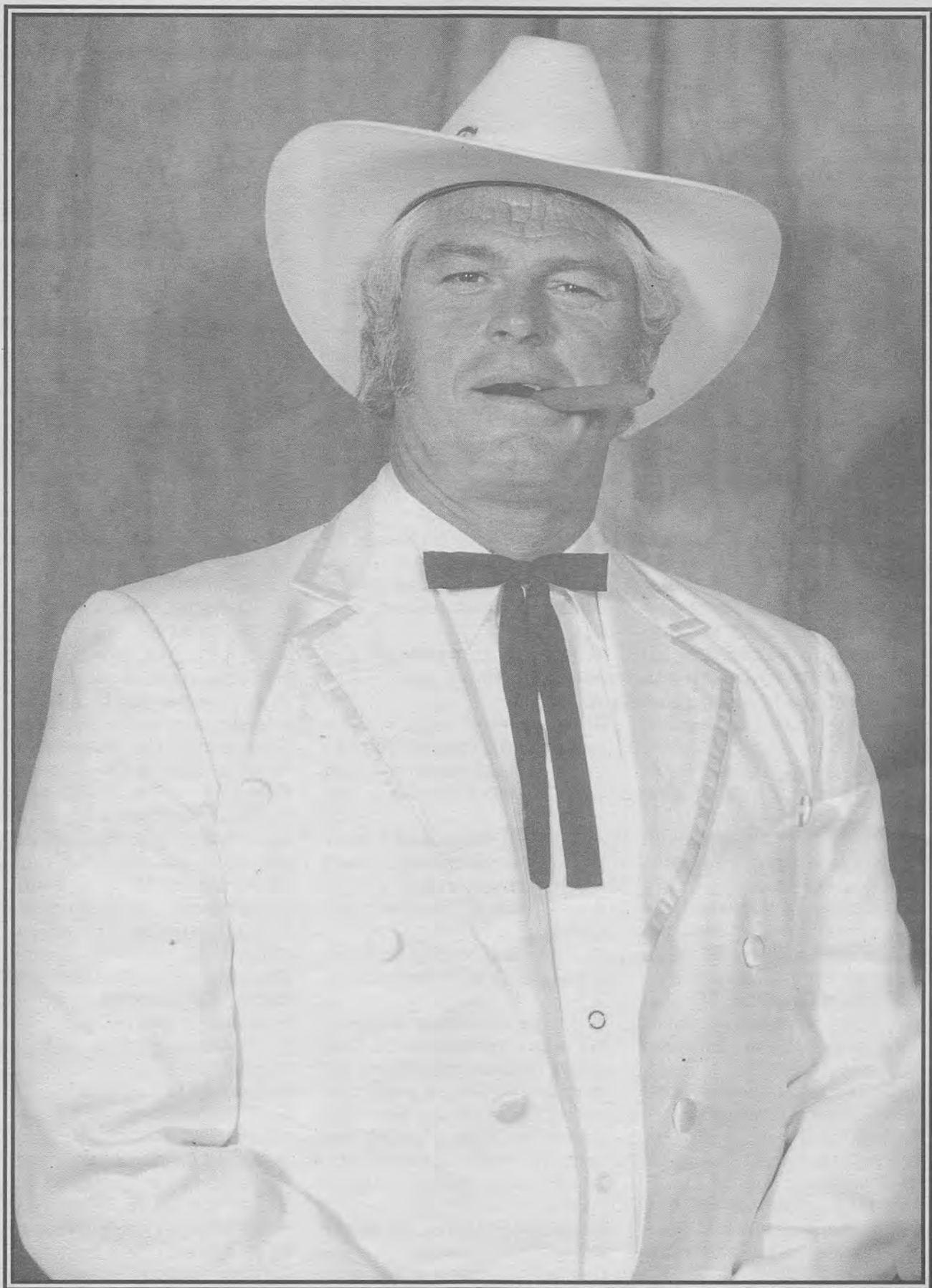
A: Miami is not in the South. It is a transplanted figment of some Northerner's imagination. There is nothing Southern about Miami except its latitude. It lacks gentility, dignity, and class.

Q: Vizcaya?

A: What was that?

Q: Haven't you ever heard of Vizcaya? It's a mansion. It rivals anything in Charleston.

A: One thing I've learned from my good upbringing is that there are always exceptions that prove the rule. That's what you have just done.





Parker will resort to virtually any tactic—including choking—to help one of his wrestlers. He's also fond of grabbing opposing wrestlers' ankles from ringside to give his men an advantage.

Q: Anyway, so what did *Southern Living* supposedly want to talk with you about?

A: Do I detect a note of sarcasm in your voice? Make no matter. They are aware of my achievements and wanted to speak with me in depth about them. I told them I had another appointment.

Q: Your achievements? Would you care to elaborate on your achievements?

A: What's wrong with you, Rosenbaum? Haven't you done your homework?

Q: I've done my homework. The way I see it, you've done two things since arriving in WCW: You cost Sid Vicious his important match against Sting at Halloween Havoc, and you forced the breakup of The Hollywood Blonds ...

A: Don't you *dare* blame me for either of those things, son!

Q: What? You were begging Sid for forgiveness after grabbing his leg at Halloween Havoc!

A: It was an honest mistake, son, but I guess Mr. Vicious never made a mistake in his life.

Q: We know that's not true. So do the police in England.

A: I've been advised not to comment on that incident.

Q: Why?

A: It's not something I ask questions about, and neither should you.

Q: I'm surprised that a Southern gentleman like yourself has nothing to say about such a ruffian incident. Didn't it offend your sensibilities?

A: I wasn't there, and I don't know what happened. And I would appreciate it if you would curtail this line of questioning.

Q: Fine, we're getting nowhere, anyway. Back to the incident with Sid.

A: It was an honest mistake. We were getting along fine before he decided to blame me for losing to Sting. It wasn't the end of the world, you know. He was on the verge of getting that Starrcade match against Vader.

Q: And now, he has nothing, right?

A: He doesn't have me, that's all I know.

Q: Boy, I wonder if maybe you

could have hooked him up with one of those Southern lawyers. You know, the kind that always manage to have the charges dropped against Ku Klux Klan members.

A: This line of questioning is an insult to the great Southern heritage...

Q: ...of lynchings, burning crosses on lawns, slavery, and low SAT scores. If the South didn't have stock car racing, college football, and Ted Turner...

A: I'm not here to defend slavery. I'm here to talk about Steve Austin. Maybe I *should* have done that interview with *Southern Living*.

Q: Nah, they would've kept asking you about fried chicken. We're past that point.

A: What...

Q: By the way, do people give you strange looks when you walk into Kentucky Fried Chicken?

A: What's that, Rosenbaum?

Q: Which do you prefer, extra crispy or original recipe? I'm a Roy Rogers man, myself.

A: Let me set you straight on this sense of humor of yours, Rosenbaum: The only kind of chicken I eat is the kind my Grandma makes. She makes this honey-drenched Southern fried chicken that any Northerner would die for. I don't eat your dried-out, oily stuff, Rosenbaum. Stick to your Triggerburgers. I'm a real Southerner.

Q: Yes, I know that. Okay, let's talk about Steve Austin.

A: It's about time.

Q: But first, let's talk about Brian Pillman.

A: The man is a crybaby.

Q: Because he didn't want you as his manager?

A: He had no choice. 'Stunning' Steve had already signed me on. It was up to Pillman to either jump on the bandwagon or get run over by it.

Q: Very eloquent. So he chose

to get run over by it.

A: That's correct. It was his mistake, not ours. 'Stunning' Steve made a brilliant choice of managers.

Q: I noticed that you played the footsie trick on Pillman, too.

A: What are you talking about this time?

Q: I'm referring to the time you grabbed Pillman's ankle and knocked him off the ropes. How were you so sure it wasn't Austin's leg?

A: Because I can tell my wrestlers from the other wrestlers, that's how!

Q: Since when?

A: Since always. One mistake does not make a man, and fortunately Steve Austin has enough brains to realize that,

have a prediction for you.

Q: I can't wait. What is it?

A: I will lead Mr. Austin to greatness. 'Stunning' Steve and the South are rising again!

Q: Boy, you're awfully confident for a man who hasn't accomplished much.

A: That will change, in time. Don't be in such a rush, Rosenbaum. Show a little patience.

Q: I don't have to be patient. I'm merely a reporter. My concern is that you seem to be merely a new model of Teddy Long.

A: Who was a very accomplished manager.

Q: Who took forever to do anything.

A: He got there. That's what counts.

Q: What's your favorite part of The Gettysburg Address?

A: I don't have one! Who cares?

Q: Were any of your ancestors affected by it?

A: Yes, of course! Abraham Lincoln was a communist! He didn't believe

"One mistake does not make a man, and fortunately Steve Austin has enough brains to realize that, unlike some other people I know."

unlike some other people I know. Pillman is asking for trouble. He had a great team going and he blew it. The Hollywood Blonds were on the verge of greatness with me as their manager. Instead, 'Stunning' Steve is going to reach the peak on his own. And I

in free trade.

Q: No, he didn't believe in free slave trade.

A: I'm not coming out for or against slavery.

Q: That's mighty noble of you.

A: That's in the past.

Q: So the Parkers had slaves?

A: The Parkers fought the war.



Parker's interest in Austin was the primary reason why The Hollywood Blonds broke up. Brian Pillman wanted absolutely nothing to do with the colonel.

We never had slaves, but my forefathers were on the front lines of battle.

Q: Sounds stupid. Why would they want to risk their lives when they had nothing on the line?

A: That just goes to prove you don't know what you're talking about, Rosenbaum. They were defending the Southern way of life for people like myself. I owe a lot to them.

Q: Uh, Colonel...the South lost.

A: Maybe you think so. Remember, though, they're not holding the 1996 Olympics in Cleveland! We lost the battles, but won the war. And that's what Steve Austin is going to do.

Q: Lose the battles and win the war?

A: No, win the battles *and* win the war.

Q: Maybe he should put an identifying tattoo on his ankle.

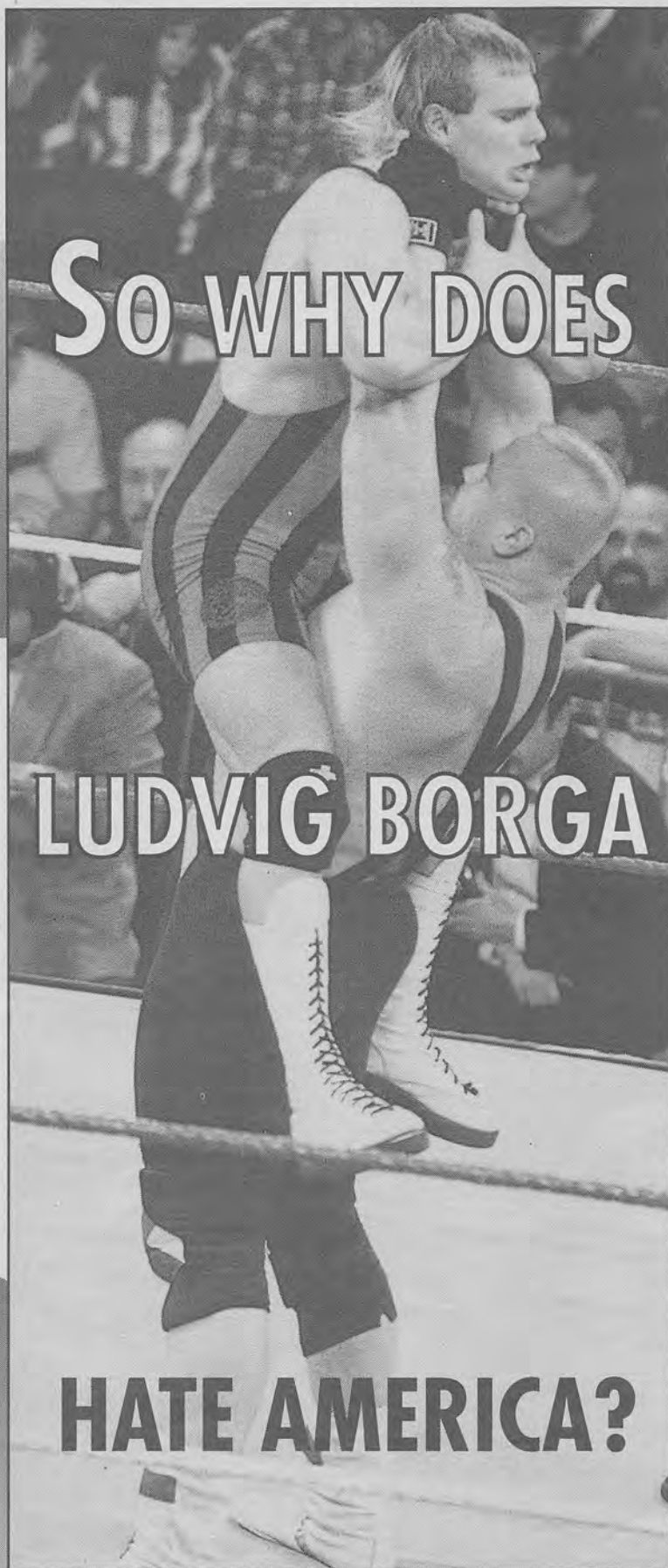
A: And maybe I should leave now and see if I can salvage my interview with *Southern Living*. Good day, Rosenbaum. I'm sure *they'll* treat me with more respect. □

HEY, THE FINNISH ARE OUR FRIENDS!

He didn't see the horror of his country being blown to bits. Nor was his family's land bought up by American speculators. The reasons for Ludvig Borga's hatred of the U.S. is far more complex



Fans can wave the stars and stripes all they want, but it won't increase Ludvig Borga's affection for America. He has his reasons, and they may surprise you. Poor Jerry Seavey (opposite page) has no quarrel with Finland, and neither do most Americans. But Borga doesn't see things the same way; to him, Seavey represents everything he despises.



By Dave Rosenbaum

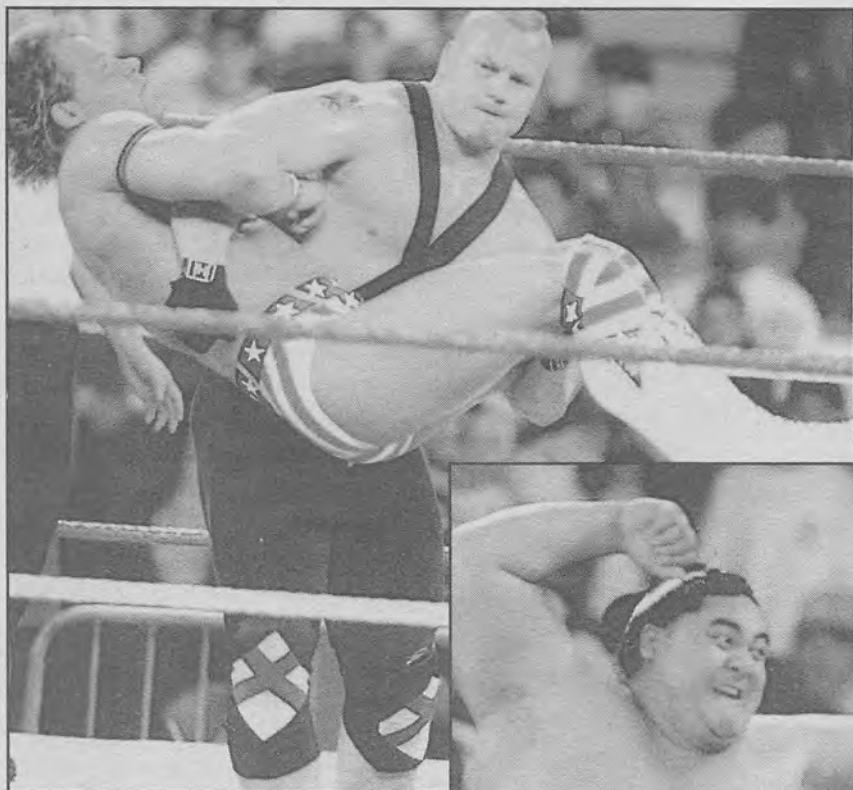
DESPAIR MAKES THE soil ripe for hatred. Adolf Hitler never could have risen to power in Germany if not for the republic's high unemployment rate and ruinous inflation. Only under these conditions was it possible for a madman to be seen as a pillar of hope. He supplied desperate Germans with a scapegoat.

Desperate times cloud desperate people's views of reality. They blame others for their miserable existence and search for answers. They come up empty. Left with nothing else, they make the worst generalities.

This is the only way to explain Ludvig Borga's hatred for the United States of America. Borga is a native of Finland, a friend—though not an ally—of the United States. Finns and Americans have been on good terms since the end of World War II. Their governments are similar. People trying to leave the former Soviet Union commonly used Finland as an escape route. And there's a small, but significant, Finnish-American community, clustered in enclaves such as the Sunset Park section of Brooklyn, New York.

But Borga, for reasons that become clear only upon close examination of Finland's history, has declared his personal war on the U.S. in general and Lex Luger in particular. Wrestling has a history of international feuds. Borga's feud with Luger is unique.

First, let's take a look at little-known facts about Borga's background. He was born in Helsinki, the capital and largest city in Finland, but actually grew up about 20 miles north of the center of town. His father, like many



Borga especially enjoys taking out his frustration on the red, white, and blue-clad Lex Luger. In Ludvig's youth, he was an avid fan of another wrestling enemy of America—Ivan Koloff.

Finns, was a lumberjack, and his mother worked in a paper mill. Although the Borgas weren't rich, mother and father were good providers for their four children.

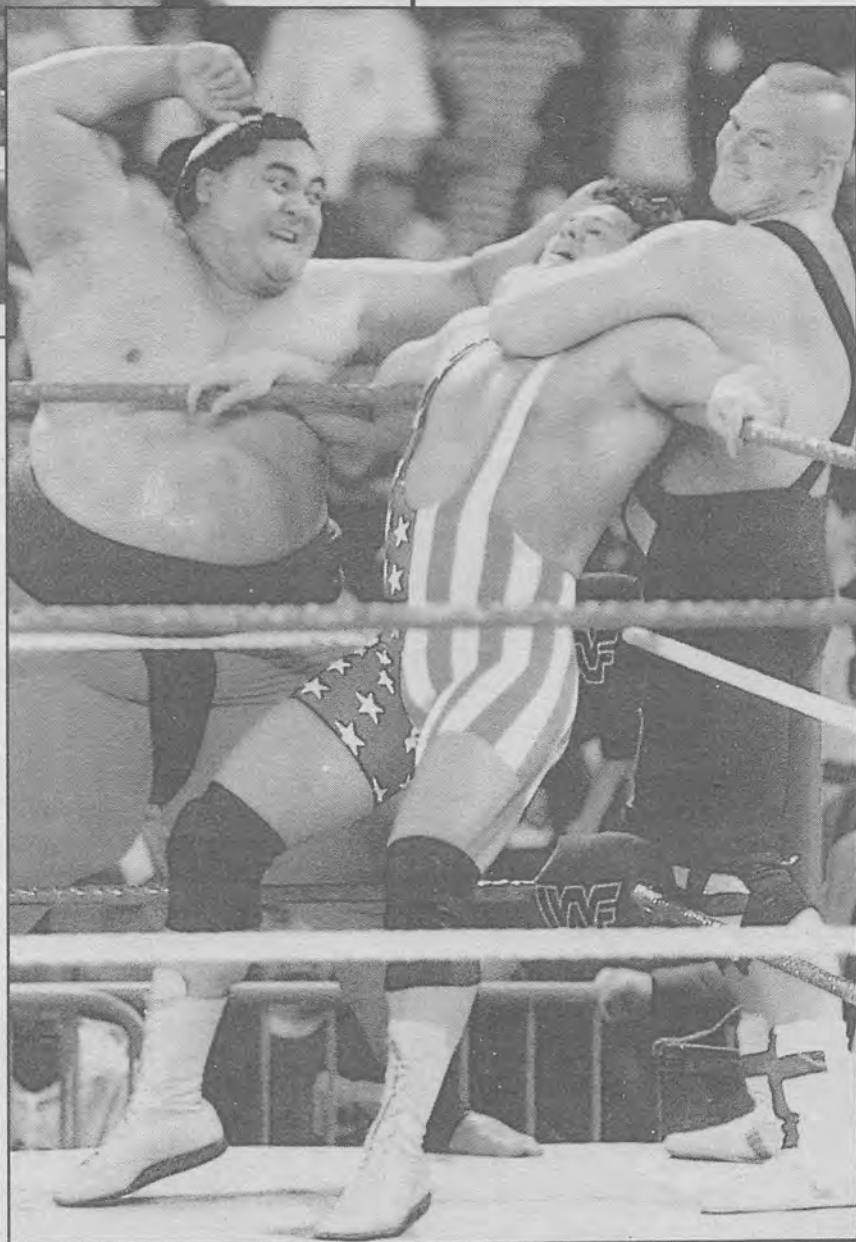
Two of Ludvig's brothers, Mikko and Teemu, followed in their father's footsteps and became lumberjacks. His sister, Meemu, was working in a paper mill when she met her future husband, Likko. He, too, was a lumberjack. When they got married, she quit her job and became pregnant. They had their first child, a daughter, last June.

Meanwhile, Ludvig followed his dream of becoming a professional wrestler. The dream was born 15 years earlier, when he and his brothers attended a wrestling card in Helsinki.

"Because Helsinki is so close to the Soviet Union, many of the

wrestlers on the card were Russian," said Juho Kekkonen, a Finnish journalist. "I especially recall that Ivan Koloff was on the card. He was very impressive and people were talking about him for the next few days."

According to friends of the family, Ludvig immediately idolized Koloff and modeled his life after the "Russian Bear." He followed Koloff's every move, subscribed to



Scott Steiner falls victim to a ruthless one-two assault of Borga and WWF World champion Yokozuna at Survivor Series. Borga's native Finland has historically felt much like Scott, trod upon by both neighboring Russia and Sweden.

the American wrestling magazines so he could keep up with news in the U.S., and wrote Koloff at least three times a year.

But this is merely background to the real reason Barga hates the U.S. Finland is located in Scandinavia, directly adjacent to Russia, and for centuries a battleground in wars between the more powerful Russians and Swedes. Finland was taken over by Russia in 1809 and remained under its rule until 1917, when it declared its independence in the wake of the Russian Revolution.

That didn't last for long. In 1939, the USSR attacked Finland and took over its government. In 1941, England joined with the Soviet Union in its war against Finland and Germany. The U.S. did not declare war on the Finns.

Finally, in 1944, Russia defeated Finland and forced it into war against Germany. Finland subsequently lost much of its land in a treaty with the Soviets.

Finland remained tremendously dependent upon the Soviets over the next 45 years. About 25 percent of Finland's exports, mostly in paper, clothing, and footwear, went to the USSR. So, when the Soviet Union collapsed, Finland paid a heavy price with unemployment, recession, and currency devaluation. It is still trying to recover.

By now, you have probably guessed that Ludvig Barga's father, brothers, and brother-in-law lost their jobs shortly after the USSR's fall. His sister, brother-in-law, and baby

niece are living in poverty, completely dependent on government subsidy and Ludvig's generosity. They have little reason for hope: The timber industry is declining and unemployment is only rising.

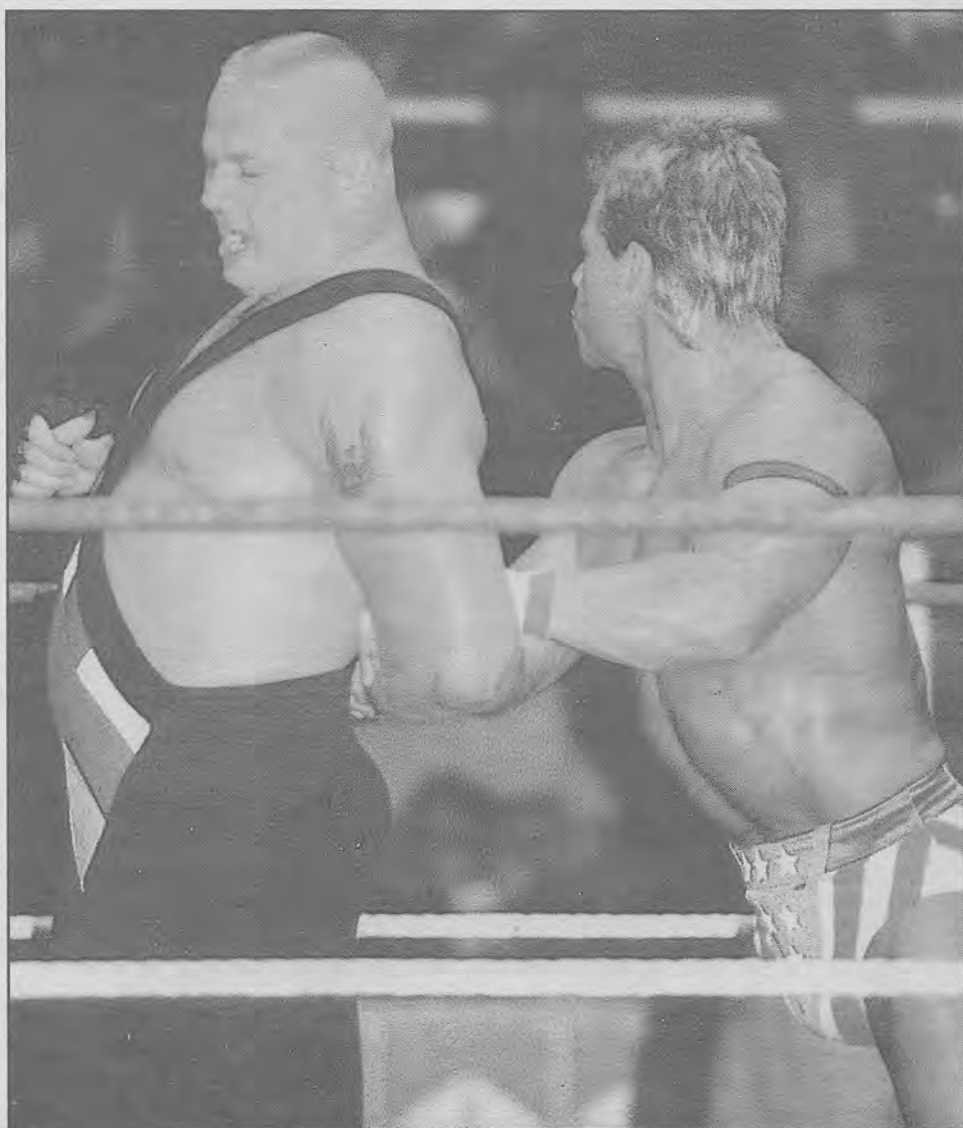
Here's the punchline: With some rather twisted reasoning, Barga blames his family's misfortune on the United States.

He sees the U.S. as major contributors to the Soviet Union's fall. Of course, Ronald Reagan spoke of the 'evil empire,' and the defeat of communism has always been high on the United States' agenda. Com-

munism was defeated and the U.S. won.

Ludvig Barga is his family's greatest hope. He is their financial lifeline, the one gainfully employed member of the family. Every two weeks, he sends 80 percent of his paycheck back to Finland and uses the rest to pay rent, buy food, and travel. Any further motivation he needs is supplied by the American flags hanging from the roofs of WWF arenas.

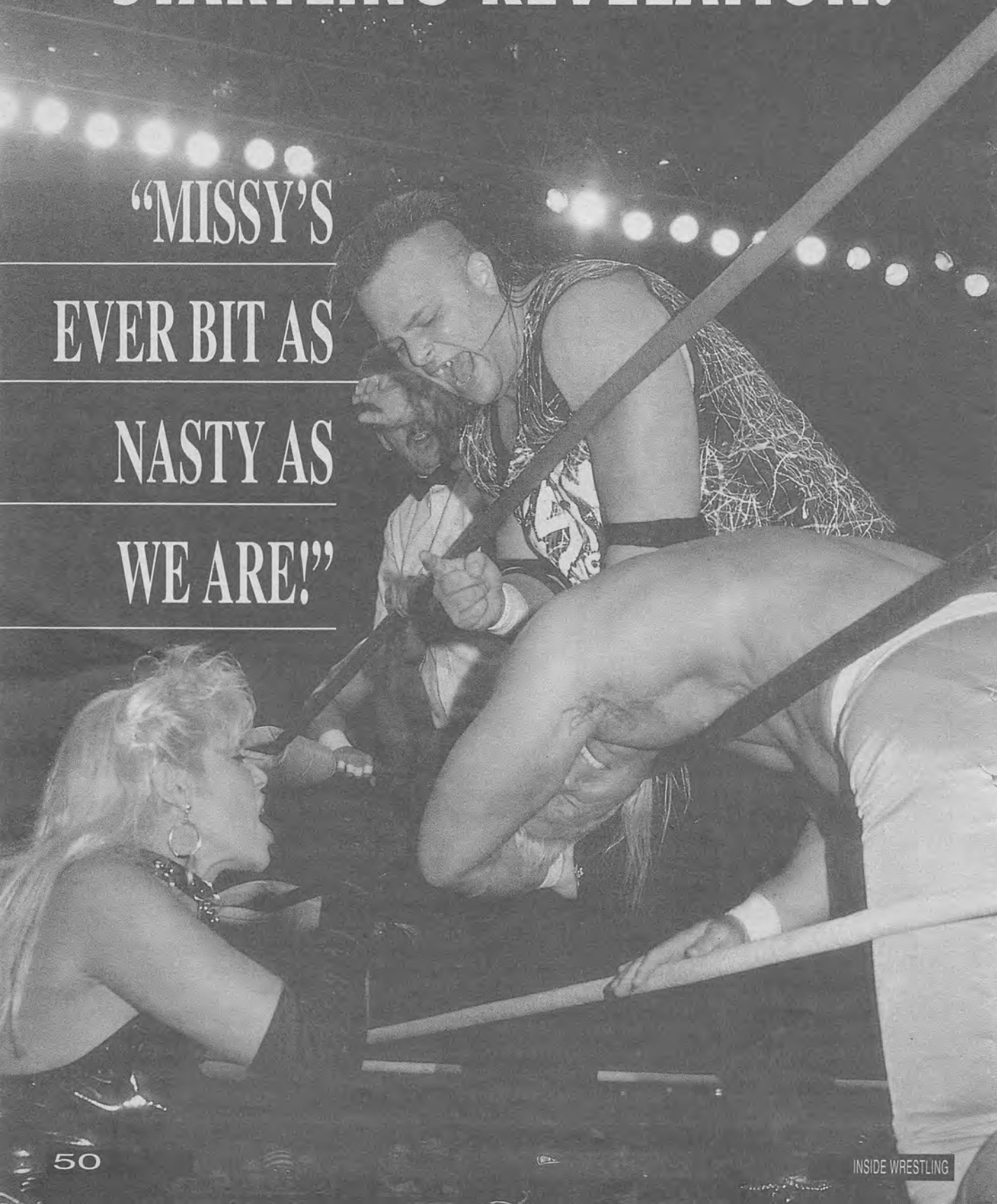
His reasoning is flimsy; his hatred is real. □



If Luger's America hadn't won the Cold War and hastened the collapse of communism, Finland's economy might still be stable and Barga's family would still be working. Ludvig sends much of his money home to keep them afloat.

SAGS AND KNOBS' STARTLING REVELATION:

“MISSY’S
EVER BIT AS
NASTY AS
WE ARE!”



By Dave Rosenbaum

SHE IS EVERY man's dream come true, a walking, talking plaything with all the parts in all the right places. There is nothing wrong with Missy Hyatt—unless you're a man who hates long legs, a thin waistline, a voluptuous figure, silky blonde hair, and a face that could tame the gods.

If only she didn't talk, all would be right with the world.

But you've heard this all before, haven't you? It seems as if every time we write a story about Missy Hyatt, the slobbering writer has to play out his fantasies in print. Give us something new, you plead.

Well, here's additional fodder for your dreams (and ours):

"Boy, that Missy is really something," said Brian Knobs, zipping his pants as he left the men's room at Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida, where a WCW TV taping was taking place.

The door opened again. Jerry Sags stumbled out. Saliva dripped from his lips. He held a champagne bottle in his right hand. This much seemed obvious: The Nasty Boys had been nasty.

"That woman really knows what she's doing!" Sags mumbled.

We waited for the door to open one last time. The thought of calling over a photographer crossed our minds. Then, somewhat to our dismay, we heard a voice rushing up behind us.

"Yoo hoo, guys, here I am!" It was unmistakably Missy Hyatt's screeching Southern drawl. "You boys miss me?"

Sags and Knobs looked at us,

looked at each other, and broke out in hysterical laughter.

"What's going on, boys? Something I miss?" Hyatt said.

"Nothing," Sags said, his laughter barely subsiding. "I was just saying that you really know what you're doing with those game plans of yours."

"Yeah," Knobs said, "and I was just saying that it's really something the way you can distract our opponents. Baby, I think we've got something going here."

The three *amigos*, beauty and her beasts, walked away, leaving the reporters without a story but badly in need of a cold shower.


And it got us to thinking: What is Missy Hyatt all about? And what is the attraction of these poor hoodlums for a woman who has always

Missy Hyatt is more than The Nasty Boys' manager. Never one to be caught lying down on the job, she proved her worthiness to Jerry Sags and Brian Knobs in ways you might never imagine!

been preoccupied with wealth and status?

We chased after Sags and Knobs and found them sitting with Missy in the rulebreakers' dressing room. Her legs were crossed daintily, but she was drinking a beer—Pabst Blue Ribbon—straight out of a longneck bottle. Sags was ripping

Until a few months ago, Missy Hyatt was considered the personification of sweet Southern womanhood. Then she signed on to manage The Nasty Boys ... and has she ever changed!



Hyatt doesn't just manage the Nastys, but hangs around and joins in their activities. As a result, don't be surprised to see Missy shooting a few rounds at the local pool hall.

into one of those roasted chickens sold at the deli counter in grocery stores. Knobs was paging through a dog-eared copy of *Playboy* magazine.

"Mind if I see that when you're through, Brian?" Missy said.

Sags and Knobs looked up and saw they had guests. They didn't seem pleased.

"What the heck do you guys want?" Sags spat.

He wasn't pleased.

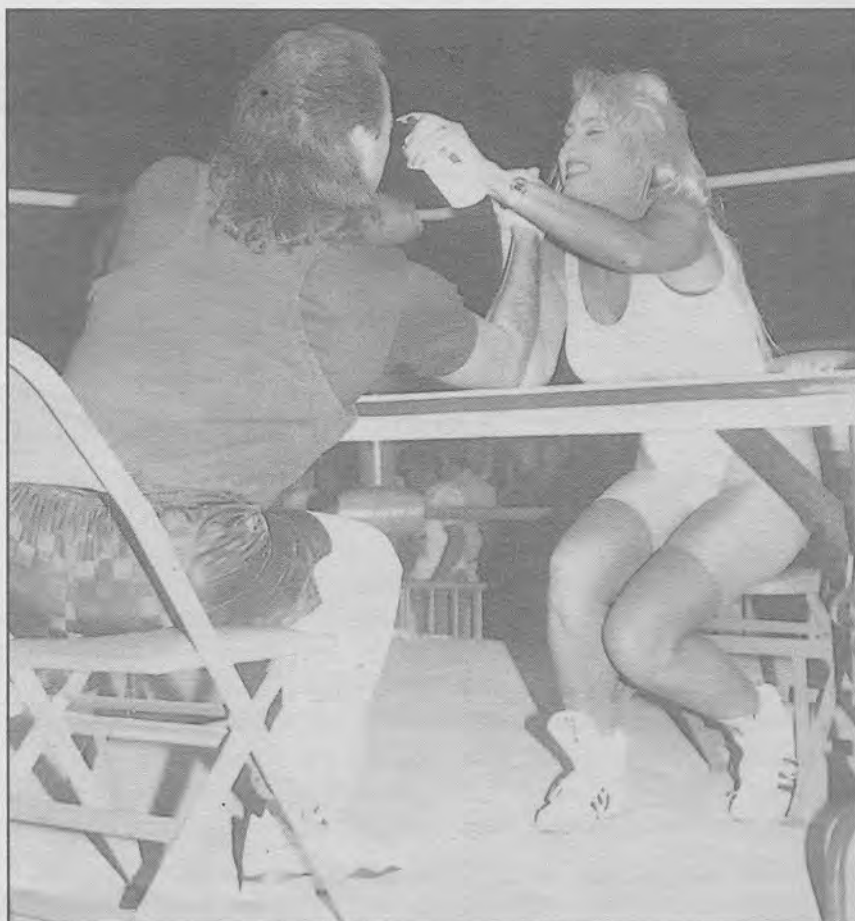
"Just looking for a story," one of the reporters said.

"Well, you won't find one here, so get out!" Sags shouted.

"But ..."

"You know, you guys have sick minds. I like that," Knobs said. "If you want a story, we'll give you a story."

Missy's "nasty" persona has occasionally previously surfaced. In 1991, claiming to be "more of a man than he'll ever be," she challenged Paul E. Dangerously to an arm-wrestling match.



That was all the invitation necessary. Three reporters, all from *INSIDE WRESTLING* and its sister publications, pulled up three chairs and formed a circle with The Nasty Boys and their nasty woman. Knobs spoke first.

"We had our doubts about Missy at first," he said. "We thought she

her out. We took her to the dirtiest, dingiest bar we could find, our kind of place. You should've seen her leaning over the pool table shooting the rack."

Shooting the rack? This was too much for our feeble hearts to stand. We could see Missy playing *billiards*, but not pool.



was some rich girl looking to get her fun by playing with the poor, dirty boys. We wanted no part of that. But then we got firsthand proof that Missy's every bit as nasty as we are."

This revelation, of course, piqued our attention.

"Let me put it this way," Knobs said, carefully choosing his words. "We make a great threesome."

At this, you could hear all three reporters collectively gulping.

"They're just telling you a story," Missy interrupted. "We didn't do none of that dirty stuff. We just goofed around and stuff."

And stuff?

"Yeah," Sags said. "We tested

"I'm a loyal woman," Missy interrupted again. We remembered that she is dating Rod Brind'Amour, a hockey player for the Philadelphia Flyers.

"He approves," Missy added.

"You know," Sags said, "Missy has this way of getting right to the heart of a situation. We used to think she was nothing like we are, but that's not true at all. If she wants something, she goes and gets it, and she doesn't care what it takes."

"Yeah," Knobs said, smiling. "She gets what she wants. Every time."

"You better believe it," she cooed. "Let's head down to the pool hall." □

When Hyatt started her career in Texas in 1985 as John Tatum's valet, she proved she could really dish out the punishment in a nasty way, as shown here against Sunshine.

The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One On One.

ONE ON ONE

THE FOUR HORSEMEN: *The most famous stable of wrestlers in history. Ric Flair helped found the Horsemen, and is extremely proud of all their accomplishments. Soon after returning to WCW early in 1993, Flair decided to revive the group. He and his old Horsemen mates, Ole and Arn Anderson, began searching for a fourth member to make the group complete.*

Their choice was a surprise. Paul Roma had achieved some success in the WWF and on the independent circuit, but he hardly struck anyone as "Horsemen material." Even in the months before his selection, he had been concentrating more on professional boxing than on wrestling.

So Roma initially had a lot of proving to do. However, he quickly convinced the doubters that he and the Horsemen were a fine match. Roma found his niche in a tag team with Arn Anderson. In August, they captured the WCW World tag title. Even when they lost the belts to The Nasty Boys the following month at Fall Brawl, it appeared as though the Horsemen once again were a solid unit, thanks in large measure to Roma's efforts.

At least, that's how it appeared. Instead of continuing to team with Anderson on a regular basis, Roma began tagging up with Paul Orndorff. Almost immediately, fans, wrestlers, and journalists began speculating whether Roma's new venture signaled yet another Horsemen breakup.

The talk of a Horsemen split compelled Flair to call Roma and ask him what his plans are. Both agreed to allow us to tape the conversation, which we bring you ... "One On One."



"I just want to make certain you understand what it means to be a Horseman. It means shared sacrifice. That means sticking your neck out for a fellow Horseman even if it's not in your self-interest."

—Ric Flair

RIC FLAIR: How's it going, Paul? Anything bothering you?

PAUL ROMA: No, not really. Look, I think I know why you're calling. You see me teaming with Orndorff and you think it's some sort of threat to the Horsemen. I don't see it that way at all. I'm still a Horseman, but I'm also still my own man. If I choose to tag with Orndorff, that's my business. I shouldn't have to come to you or Arn for permission.

RF: Whoa, you're getting a little ahead of me. I'm not disputing your right to be your own man. But when you joined the Horsemen, you knew there were certain ground rules you had to follow. If you want to tag with Orndorff or anybody else once in a while, that's fine, but you can't do it at the expense of a fellow

Horseman. The more time you spend with Orndorff, the more problems you and Arn have as a team.

PR: Under normal circumstances that might make sense, Ric, but Arn is laid up now. We can't be a team, so how does it hurt us if I tag with Orndorff?

RF: You don't catch my drift. What I'm saying is that the only people you should be tagging with on a full-time basis are either Arn or myself. Fellow Horsemen. Since I'm not interested in wrestling tags at the moment, you might want to consider wrestling singles.

PR: You say "I might want to consider," but what you're really doing is threatening me. I don't have any problems with wrestling solo. In fact, I prefer it. But I enjoy teaming with Paul. He has a lot to offer as a partner, and I think we can go

N ONE



"I'll always be grateful to you guys for the chance you gave me, but I feel like I know WCW fairly well now. I'm convinced I can do well here without being a member of the Horsemen."

—Paul Roma

far. If I keep tagging with him, what are you going to do, kick me out of the Horsemen?

RF: I'm not interested in kicking you out of the Horsemen. I'm still convinced you were a good choice for us. I just want to make certain you understand what it means to be a Horseman. It means shared sacrifice. That means sticking your neck out for a fellow Horseman even if it's not in your self-interest. You always have to do what's good for the team. No excuses, no complaints.

PR: Yeah, Ric, I understand all that. The problem is, I'm really starting to wonder whether being a Horseman is the best choice for me right now. I'll always be grateful to you guys for the chance you gave me, but I feel like I know WCW

fairly well now. I'm convinced I can do well here without being a member of the Horsemen.

RF: You are, huh? Roma, why do you think you've been so successful in WCW? Do you think it's because of your own talent? That's part of it, but the biggest reason is because the Horsemen have allowed you to be successful. We created the environment in which you've thrived. Once you're out of the Horsemen, it's a whole new ballgame. I'm not sure you'd want to experience it.

PR: You're telling me I'd be nothing without the Horsemen? What a joke! Listen, I didn't beg to come with you guys; you went looking for me. I accomplished a lot in this sport before I became a Horseman and I'll accomplish a lot more after I leave. My life doesn't

revolve around being a Horseman. At least I have things in perspective.

RF: No, I'm afraid perspective is what you lack. You don't realize how lucky you are to be a Horseman. You're one of the select few. Even the people who have despised us have always admitted the Horsemen are an elite group of professional athletes. You seem to be much too willing to throw away the biggest chance you'll ever have to achieve greatness.

PR: I don't think I'd be throwing away much. There are a few people in wrestling who are better off now than they were as Horsemen.

RF: What do you think made them great? They're successful now because they were Horsemen at one time. When they left, it was because they were ready to leave. I don't think you're ready to leave, Paul. You have a lot of promise that hasn't been fulfilled yet. Arn and I have a wealth of experience to offer you. You should stick around.

PR: Speaking of Arn, how does he feel about all this? Is he as obsessed about the Horsemen legacy as you are?

RF: Arn is with me on this, believe me. He and I have been through a lot together. He's probably more committed to the Horsemen than I am. And when he gets back on his feet, he'll demonstrate to you exactly what I've been talking about.

PR: I don't doubt that, but I do doubt whether either of you really knows what's best for me. Orndorff and I might be close to a shot at the tag team title. I don't want to lose that chance without good reason. If I stick with the Horsemen it'll be because it's the right thing for me, not you.

RF: Remember, you and Arn did win the tag title, so what's so crucial about doing it again right now? Once Arn is back, you'll have as good an opportunity to get back the tag team belts, and you'd probably have a longer title run with him than with Orndorff. Being a Horseman has been the right thing for you so far.

PR: That's your opinion. I still have a lot of thinking to do on this. And when I make my decision, you'll be the first to know. □

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Sincerely Yours

(Continued from page 5)

you jest, old chaps. Regal is the finest wrestler in WCW.

I'll be the first to admit that Sir William had a hand in the victory, but a veteran like Steamboat should have known enough to watch out for the manager, so "The Dragon" has no one to blame but himself. Furthermore, a look at the "Hotseat" interview with His Lordship in the same issue shows that he is articulate and soft-spoken, and is far easier on the ears than the mindless screaming of, say, Sid Vicious.

Can you blame Regal for turning his nose up at the people who refuse to acknowledge the fact that he employs better scientific holds than half of the so-called "fan favorites" out there? I'm taking nothing away from Steamboat's own considerable ability,

but when it comes down to pure wrestling, Lord Steven is, indeed, regal.

HARRY SIMON
Las Vegas

HOORAY FOR HAVOC!

WCW's Halloween Havoc '93 had to be the wildest, most unpredictable wrestling card I've ever attended. The arena atmosphere at the University of New Orleans was electric and filled with anticipation and apprehension as to what would happen next. The bouts were first-rate, and built to an exciting crescendo. In fact, the action was so intense, it frequently spilled outside the ring, past the barricades, and into the crowd.

How well I know. It was my camera Cactus Jack grabbed and used to hit Big Van Vader in the head. Remarkably, the camera is still functioning properly (despite some Vader perspiration). I doubt if Cactus or Vader can say the same following their battle of bedlam and brutality.

Attending a WCW pay-per-view event can be an experience in interactive virtual reality!

RICHARD EVANS
Gulfport, MS



Razor Ramon should be thankful the WWF suspended Shawn Michaels, says reader Clark Williams. Otherwise, he never would have been able to become Intercontinental champion.

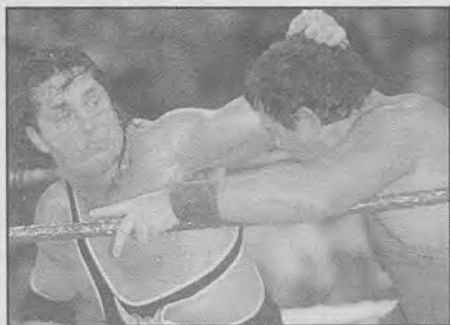
IS REVENGE SWEET?

So Razor Ramon humiliated Irwin R. Schyster ("Razor's Raw Revenge: But Embarrassing Schyster Wasn't Enough," January 1994). I'm still not that impressed with the new Intercontinental champion. He should thank the WWF for suspending I-C beltholder Shawn Michaels; otherwise he never would have earned the prize. Sure, Shawn's preening can be tiresome, but who will deny his wrestling skills? The inconsistent, underachieving Ramon will rise again, and he soon will be an ex-champion.

CLARK WILLIAMS
Forney, TX ☐

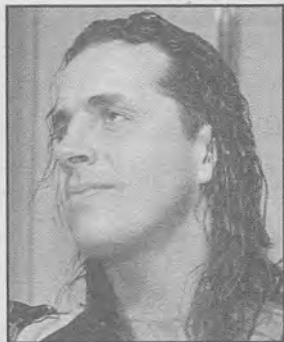
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THE Wrestler



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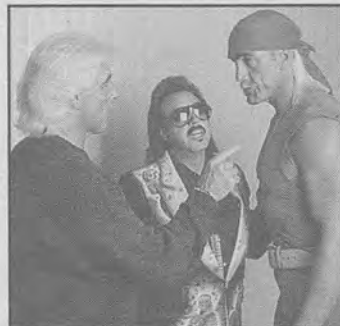
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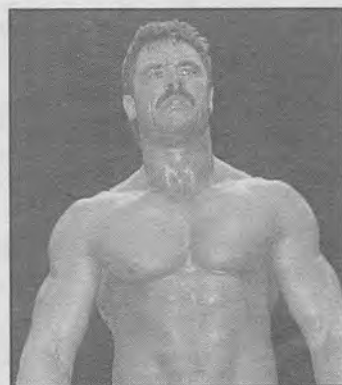
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All this—and much more!—in the April 1994 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*

ON SALE JANUARY 25!

Behind the Door

(Continued from page 12)



The Assassin vs. Dusty Rhodes may have thrilled fans back in 1981, but neither is in shape to satisfy today's more demanding wrestling public. They ought to have the sense to remain retired.



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to be on full-scale alert," my source said. "Believe me, it's just not going to happen."

NEWS ITEM: Vince McMahon indicted on charges of illegal distribution of steroids.

GUT REACTION: It's just the tip of the iceberg.

INFORMED REACTION: It's just the tip of the iceberg. Batten down the hatches! McMahon now. Who's next?

NEWS ITEM: The Hollywood Blonds split and feud. Col. Robert Parker is the reason.

GUT REACTION: Too bad. They were a fine team. The reason seems logical, since Steve Austin and Brian Pillman were not very close. Pillman is the fan favorite now; Austin is the rulebreaker.

INFORMED REACTION: Parker had very little to do with the Blonds' breakup. In fact, he wanted to keep them together because he felt the team could

regain the WCW World tag team title. Another minor factor: Austin turned his back on Pillman when Flyin' Brian was injured.

Now for the real reason: Pillman was very angry that Austin didn't confer with him on a replacement for the tag team title match against Arn Anderson and Paul Roma. Austin, on his own, chose Lord Steven Regal. But Austin was pinned and Pillman was out of luck.

I asked Pillman about this. "It showed a lack of class on his part," Pillman said. "That was my title, too."

Another reason: Pillman was uncomfortable with his role as rulebreaker. Remember, Pillman has been a fan favorite for most of his life. His high-flying style fits that role. Pillman feeds off of the fans and was upset that they booed him wherever he went. According to my sources, Pillman tried to talk Austin into changing the team's attitude. Austin refused.

The fallout: The Hollywood Blonds are done forever.

NEWS ITEM: "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony is a fan favorite. His "Dirty White Girl," Kimberly, is a fan favorite, too.

GUT REACTION: Kimberly looks great in flowery Laura Ashley sundresses.

INFORMED REACTION: Kimberly looks great in flowery Laura Ashley sundresses, but she looks even better in boots, chains, and leather bustiers.

As for Anthony, does this mean the South rises again? Has he cancelled his subscription to *New York* magazine? Was he that disappointed in his fall foliage tour? Hey, Tony, that's what you get for waiting until December!

Really, this isn't going to work. Anthony is a dyed-in-the-wool rulebreaker. Kimberly is a bad girl.

Can we do lunch, hon?

□

On the Road

(Continued from page 10)

Every sport has a say in the image it presents to its fans. The inane Ahmad Rashad of NBC, which holds the rights to the NBA, would have you believe that basketball never existed before Larry Bird and Magic Johnson entered the league in 1979. The well-oiled Pat O'Brien of CBS continually waxed poetic about the beauty of baseball, while his network just finished four years of destroying everything beautiful about it. But NBC and CBS never told its stars or the athletes it televised to enhance their appearances with drugs, of which McMahon is accused.

If McMahon did dispense steroids to WWF competitors, he is guilty of far more than dealing drugs. He would be guilty of deception, and everything he has sold, from tickets to dolls to videogames, during the years in which he allegedly committed his crime would be tainted. How can we ask our children to idolize someone whose majority of fame has been achieved and enhanced by the use of drugs? What do parents of young wrestling fans tell their kids? "Just say no"—unless it will make you rich and famous?

Lawler knows a bit about being rich and famous. Elvis Presley may be the only man more popular in Memphis than Lawler, whose nickname accurately describes the treatment he gets there, and the local TV ratings for Lawler and his USWA brethren are genuinely royal. The incident involving Lawler allegedly took place in Louisville, Kentucky, where the USWA competes once a week. Apparently, the alleged victim was a fan who attended the weekly

cards at Louisville Gardens.

Sexual misconduct cases are always clouded by plenty of gray matter. This won't win any points with women's groups, but what is first declared rape sometimes is revealed to be devious gold-digging. And if you don't think an innocent high school freshman can look the part of a willful woman, I suggest you have a chat with Jake LaMotta or Luis Polonia. However, there is something revolting about the idea of a 40-year-old man being intimately involved with a 13-year-old girl. In this case, consent is not a factor; the Commonwealth of Kentucky calls for automatic rape charges in cases involving those under 14 years of age.

Following his indictment, there was a published report in the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* that the alleged victim had recanted her story, admitted she was lying, and was planning to drop all charges. But the charges had not been dropped by press time, and Lawler was removed from the Survivor Series card. That decision, whether one-sided or mutual, had to involve McMahon, who now appears to be throwing stones against the glass panes of Titan Tower.

Lawler continues to wrestle in Memphis, where his support remains strong, although he is no longer competing on cards in Louisville. McMahon continues the daily maintenance of his empire, concentrating on damage control. And wrestling survives—for now. I don't know about you, but rape and drug dealing are not two activities I consider family entertainment. □

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The Insider

(Continued from page 14)

escape with his life.

The only thing Flair has on his side is the sport itself. While boxing has experienced shocking upsets, the strangest things can, and often do, occur between wrestling turnbuckles. Flair is the master strategist, magician, and manipulator of reality. If anyone can find a way to defeat the world's best wrestler, he can.

He had better: If he loses, he must retire.

"I set the condition because it's time for everyone to get off their butts, including me," Flair said over wine in his Plaza Hotel suite in Manhattan, where he was promoting the upcoming Starrcade pay-per-view. "I didn't want to head into another year doing the same old thing. This match, whether I win or lose, will wake everyone up. It's a slap in the face."

Mid-life crises don't only manifest in affairs with 22-year-old secretaries

(as if Flair needed more romantic distraction). Even in a sport with the perceived glamour of wrestling, routine can set in.

"I realize how much I've been on cruise control," Flair admits. "It must be two years since I last worked on a new move."

While some can argue there aren't many moves not already a part of Flair's legendary repertoire, it's the acknowledgement that's revealing. Flair is bored with the sport that made him famous. He has been for some time. A showdown against Vader, whom everyone is touting as a legend in the making, is just the right antidote for chronic wrestling fatigue syndrome.

Flair, like Ali and most world-class athletes, cannot retire of his own volition. He needs something—a contract, a medical condition—to retire him. The question here is, which will it be?

"If I lose, I'll move on with no regrets," he says. "I'm not worried about my health. I've handled far better and far worse than Vader. I'm no Cactus Jack. If he wins, I'll shake his hand. But he'll know he was in for a battle."

"But if I win, baby, watch out. I'll never retire. I'll stay champion till I'm 70."

There is no way Ric Flair can defeat Vader. Over the last year, the colossal Coloradan is wrestling as well as anyone has in the past quarter-century, and that includes Flair in his prime. Vader has repeatedly proven how worthy a world champion he is.

But ...

Can you imagine the party if Flair captures yet another world championship in Charlotte, before his hometown fans? It'd be a celebration rivaling that when the NFL admitted the Carolina Panthers into the league. □



Like Ali, Ric Flair is a charismatic veteran adored by the masses. His task against the dominating Big Van Vader is a simple one: defeat the WCW World champion or retire. The "Nature Boy" might be wily enough to pull it off.

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On Assignment

(Continued from page 16)

renounces the United States. It's happened before. That's why companies and agencies are nervous about using wrestlers. They're too unpredictable."

The most famous commercial featured the world's most famous wrestler. Hulk Hogan's Right Guard anti-perspirant spots, featuring the "Hulkster" absorbed in painting, were wildly successful. One would think it might give companies pause to reconsider.

"Hogan is a special case," Maynard noted. "He's beyond wrestling. He's an icon, like Muhammad Ali was more than just a boxer, or the way Jordan transcended basketball. No other wrestler can compete with Hogan."

That should come as no surprise to the wrestling community; it's been known for years that Hogan is a special case. But it got me thinking that there must be certain products a wrestler could sell better than any other sports personality. There must be an endorsement future for pro wrestlers beyond beef-jerky spokesman Randy Savage.

"Nothing is impossible," Maynard said. "You just have to find the right products, ones that can't be hurt by erratic behavior."

With Maynard's help, I compiled a list of 12 wrestling figures, and the products they would be best qualified to sell. See if you can match wrestler to product. I'll give the answers next month, when I will also describe one very famous wrestler's odyssey through the commercial-making process. "It was stranger than anything I ever did in the ring," he said.

Also, a noted ad agency will take five of the wrestlers and their compatible products and propose



Since Missy Hyatt's always on the go, she relies heavily on long-distance calls, and would seem to be a perfect candidate to endorse one of the major telephone services. Candice Bergen, beware!

a campaign strategy. In the meantime, if you have any brilliant marriages between wrestler and product, send them to me at "On

Assignment," c/o INSIDE WRESTLING, Box 956, Fort Washington, PA 19034. I'll print the best ones in a future column. □

WRESTLER	PRODUCT
Undertaker	Greyhound Bus Lines
Stu Hart	Mrs. Buttersworth's syrup
Rick Morton	Funeral homes
Bobby Heenan	Molson ale
Doink the Clown	Purina Dog Chow
Rick Martel	Fuji audio tape
Luna Vachon	World Wildlife Fund
Dusty Rhodes	Prell shampoo
Rick Steiner	Kodak film
Lex Luger	Noxzema cream
Yokozuna	Hyatt hotels
Missy Hyatt	Bayer aspirin

Inside Wrestling

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July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.
February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.
March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.
April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.
May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Roll.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
August 1986/Stories include: WrestleMania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.
September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.
October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Luger, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.
November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.
December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.
February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-

Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.
March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.
June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.
August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.
October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.
November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.
December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.
February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.
June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.
August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.
October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.
November 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Kerry, Luger, Muraco, Freebirds.
December 1988/Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper.
January 1989/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Sting, Arn, Kerry-Lawler.
February 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Bossman, Tully & Arn, Warriors-Windham-Sting.
March 1989/Stories include: Hennig, Midnight-Midnights, Fuller & Golden, Ultimate.
May 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Steiner, Morton, Bad Co., Taylor.

June 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Savage, Luger, Steamboat-Flair.
July 1989/Stories include: Savage, Windham, Kerry, Demolition, Sting.
August 1989/Stories include: Hulkamania, Steamboat, Rude, Cornette.
September 1989/Stories include: Savage-Hogan, Luger, Mascaras, Rhodes.
October 1989/Stories include: Hall & Pillman & Vicious, Hennig, Swats vs. Warriors, Rhodes.
November 1989/Stories include: Elizabeth, Sting, Luger, Paul E., Mascaras.
December 1989/Stories include: Rhodes, Flair, Hogan-Zeus, Embry.
January 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting-Flair, Roberts-DiBiase.
February 1990/Stories include: Warriors-Skyscrapers, Zenk, Rude-Piper.
April 1990/Stories include: Starrcade '89, Ultimate, Rhodes, Sawyer.
May 1990/Stories include: Hogan-Ultimate/Luger, Woman, Lawler, LPWA.
June 1990/Stories include: Sting, Saito-Zbyszko, Earthquake, Ultimate, Jarrett.
July 1990/Stories include: Steiners, Sting, Warrior & Hogan, Earthquake.
August 1990/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Hogan, Warrior, Taylor.
September 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Duggan, JYD, Adams, Horsemen.
October 1990/Stories include: Sting, Legion of Doom, Bushwhackers, Gigante.
November 1990/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Vicious, Slaughter, Orbits.
December 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting, Kerry, Cornette, Zbyszko.
January 1991/Stories include: LOD, Adams, Steiners, Lawler-Funk.
February 1991/Stories include: Taylor, Hogan, Martel, Sting, all-annoying team.
March 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Earthquake, Roberts-Martel, Sting.
April 1991/Stories include: Flair-Sting, Steiners, Piper, Zbyszko, Slaughter.
May 1991/Stories include: Savage-Warrior, Steiners, Sting, Virgil.
June 1991/Stories include: Steiners, LOD, Koloff, I-C belt, Dundees.
July 1991/Stories include: Hogan, Virgil, Funk, Nastys, Steiners, Spivey.
August 1991/Stories include: Warrior-Ultimate, Steiners, Flair, Steamboat.

September 1991/Stories include: Justice-Hogan, Hyatt, Rude, Hennig.
October 1991/Stories include: Savage & Liz, Hogan & Warrior, Luger.
November 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Savage, Luger, Flair, War Games.
December 1991/Stories include: SummerSlam, York, Simmons.
January 1992/Stories include: Sting, Freebirds, Hart, Rhodes, Rotundo.
February 1992/Stories include: Luger, Hart, Patriot, Rude, Thesz-Rogers.
April 1992/Stories include: Hart, Steiners, Liger-Pillman, Roberts.
May 1992/Stories include: Justice-Hogan, Liger, Gilbert, Repo Man.
June 1992/Stories include: Sting, Hogan, Race, M.A. Bagwell, Atlas.
July 1992/Stories include: Undertaker, Vader, Sherri/Michaels, Madusa.
August 1992/Stories include: Savage-Flair, Jack-Badd, Christopher, LOD.
September 1992/Stories include: War Games, Hogan, Vader, Kamala.
October 1992/Stories include: SummerSlam, Steiner-Muta, Simmons.
November 1992/Stories include: Flair, Warrior, Vader, top rope rule.
December 1992/Stories include: Flair, Ramon, Heavenly Bodies, Jarrett.
February 1993/Stories include: LOD, Smoky Mountain, Rude, Jimmy Hart.
March 1993/Stories include: Michaels, Nikita Koloff, Windham-Rhodes.
May 1993/Stories include: WrestleMania IX analysis, Andre tribute, Muta.
June 1993/Stories include: Doink, Vader-Sting, Jimmy Hart, Steiners, Lawler.
July 1993/Stories include: Bravo, Gonzales, Bulldog, Ramon, Arn, Tatanka.
August 1993/Stories include: Christopher-Michaels, Hogan-Yokozuna, Hart.
September 1993/Stories include: Steiners, Slamboree, Ramon, Sting & Smith, Hart.
October 1993/Stories include: SummerSlam preview, Money Inc., Nanny Simpson, Vader-Vicious, Hart-Lawler.
November 1993/Stories include: Heavenly Bodies, Jannetty, Rude-Flair, Hogan, Luger, Power Bombs.
December 1993/Stories include: Fytch, Austin, Luger, Sting & Flair, Yokozuna, Luna.

INSIDE WRESTLING

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OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- 1—BIG VAN VADER
(1) WCW World champion
- 2—YOKOZUNA
(2) WWF World champion
- 3—RAZOR RAMON
(9) WWF Intercontinental champion

- 4—BRET HART
(5) No. 2 contender: WWF World title
- 5—DUSTIN RHODES
(6) WCW U.S. champion
- 6—RIC FLAIR
(4) No. 4 contender: WCW World title
- 7—THE UNDERTAKER
(10) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

- 8—LEX LUGER
(7) No. 4 contender: WWF World title
- 9—STING
(3) No. 3 contender: WCW World title
- 10—RANDY SAVAGE
(-) No. 8 contender: WWF World title
- 11—STEVE REGAL
(12) WCW TV champion

- 12—CRUSH
(-) No. 15 contender: WWF World title
- 13—RICK RUDE
(8) No. 2 contender: WCW World title
- 14—TATANKA
(13) No. 7 contender: WWF World title
- 15—STEVE AUSTIN
(-) No. 5 contender: WCW World title

WCW

- 1—BIG VAN VADER
(1) 450, Denver, CO
- 2—DUSTIN RHODES
(2) 254, Austin, TX
- 3—RICK RUDE
(6) 246, Robbinsdale, MN

- 4—STING
(3) 260, Venice Beach, CA
- 5—RIC FLAIR
(4) 243, Minneapolis, MN
- 6—STEVE AUSTIN
(10) 241, Dallas, TX
- 7—STEVE REGAL
(8) 247, Blackpool, England

- 8—DAVEY BOY SMITH
(5) 245, Leeds, England
- 9—ERIK WATTS
(-) 262, Tulsa, OK
- 10—RICK STEAMBOAT
(7) 238, Honolulu, HI
- 11—JOHNNY B. BADD
(9) 235, Macon, GA

- 12—PAUL ROMA
(-) 235, Kensington, KY
- 13—RON SIMMONS
(15) 260, Perry, GA
- 14—SHOCKMASTER
(-) 407, Pittsburgh, PA
- 15—BRIAN PILLMAN
(-) 226, Cincinnati, OH

WWF

- 1—YOKOZUNA
(1) 550, Samoa
- 2—RAZOR RAMON
(2) 291, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—BRET HART
(5) 235, Calgary, Alberta

- 4—THE UNDERTAKER
(3) 320, parts unknown
- 5—LEX LUGER
(4) 290, Chicago, IL
- 6—SHAWN MICHAELS
(-) 220, San Antonio, TX
- 7—LUDVIG BORG
(6) 258, Helsinki, Finland

- 8—TATANKA
(12) 260, Miami, FL
- 9—RANDY SAVAGE
(-) 245, Sarasota, FL
- 10—THE KID
(14) 201, Tampa, FL
- 11—JEFF JARRETT
(-) 220, Hendersonville, TN

- 12—DOINK THE CLOWN
(-) 235, parts unknown
- 13—OWEN HART
(13) 223, Calgary, Alberta
- 14—RICK MARTEL
(9) 236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 15—ADAM BOMB
(10) 294, parts unknown

MOST POPULAR

- 1—BRET HART
Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular
- 2—STING
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3—RAZOR RAMON
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular

- 4—RIC FLAIR
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular
- 5—DUSTIN RHODES
Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular
- 6—LEX LUGER
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular
- 7—TATANKA
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular

- 8—RANDY SAVAGE
Last issue: No. 11 Most Popular
- 9—RICK STEAMBOAT
Last issue: No. 12 Most Popular
- 10—CURT HENNING
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular
- 11—THE KID
Last issue: No. 14 Most Popular

- 12—DOINK THE CLOWN
Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular
- 13—TRACEY SMOTHERS
Last issue: No. 15 Most Popular
- 14—BRIAN PILLMAN
Last issue: unrated
- 15—TONY ANTHONY
Last issue: unrated

MOST HATED

- 1—CRUSH
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated
- 2—BIG VAN VADER
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated
- 3—RICK RUDE
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated

- 4—YOKOZUNA
Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated
- 5—SHAWN MICHAELS
Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated
- 6—STEVE AUSTIN
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated
- 7—BRIAN LEE
Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated

- 8—STEVE REGAL
Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated
- 9—PAUL ORNDORFF
Last issue: No. 11 Most Hated
- 10—JERRY LAWLER
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated
- 11—EDDIE GILBERT
Last issue: unrated

- 12—LUDVIG BORG
Last issue: No. 12 Most Hated
- 13—BUDDY LANDELL
Last issue: unrated
- 14—ADAM BOMB
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated
- 15—JEFF JARRETT
Last issue: unrated

TOP 15

- 1—THE NASTY BOYS
(1) WCW World tag team champions
- 2—THE QUEBECERS
(2) WWF World tag team champions
- 3—RICK & SCOTT STEINER
(3) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 4—THE HEAVENLY BODIES
(7) Smoky Mountain tag team champions
- 5—THE HEADSHRINKERS
(8) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

- 6—2 COLD SCORPIO & MARCUS BAGWELL
(4) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 7—THE BRUISE BROTHERS
(13) No. 2 contenders: Smoky Mountain tag title
- 8—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS
(5) No. 1 contenders: Smoky Mountain tag title
- 9—MEN ON A MISSION
(9) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 10—KEVIN SULLIVAN & TASMANIAC
(-) ECW tag team champions

- 11—HARLEM HEAT
(-) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 12—STEVE DANE & CHAZ TAYLOR
(-) Global tag team champions
- 13—THE SMOKIN' GUNNS
(6) No. 4 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 14—PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA
(-) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 15—THE WAR MACHINES
(-) USWA tag team champions

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships highlighted in bold on the "Roll Call Of Champions" have changed hands since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended December 7, 1993

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

AAA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: EL HUO DEL SANTO & OCTAGON
(November 5, 1993; defeated Love Machine & Eddy Guerrero; Toluca, Mexico)

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS
(September 9, 1993; from The Patriot & The Eagle; Omiya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUWARA MISAWA
(August 22, 1992; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DAN KROFFAT
(May 21, 1993; from Masanobu Fuchi; Sagami, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
MITSUWARA MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI
(December 3, 1993; defeated Akira Tase & Toshiaki Kawada in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION:
MITSUWARA MISAWA
(August 22, 1992; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S ALL-PACIFIC CHAMPION:
TOSHIYO YAMADA
(November 28, 1993; defeated Minami Toyota; Osaka, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MIMA SHIMODA
(September 18, 1993; from Bai Yashinaga; Omiya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION:
AJA KONG
(November 26, 1992; from Bull Nakano; Kawasaki, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:
CHAPPARITA ASARI
(November 28, 1993; from Miyuki Endo; Osaka, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
DYNAMITE KANSAI & MAYUMI OZAKI
(April 11, 1993; from Minami Toyota & Toshiyo Yamada; Osaka, Japan)

ALL STATES WRESTLING JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:
BOBBIE FIELDS
(October 14, 1993; from Charles Long; Maryville, TN)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:
RIP SAWYER
(November 6, 1993; from Max Thrasher; Steeles, PA)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LORD ZOLTAN
(November 6, 1993; from Quinn Hask; Steeles, PA)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
THE BAD CREW
(September 30, 1993; title previously vacant; York, PA)

AMERICAN STATES WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:
SCOTT SOMERS
(November 19, 1993; from Bo Dacious; Mansfield, OH)

ASWA LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:
CHAD AUSTIN
(November 14, 1993; from Joe Collage; Essex, MD)

ATLANTIC WRESTLING COUNCIL LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION:
BOBBY ROGERS
(December 4, 1993; from Blare Rogers; Hollywood, FL)

ATLANTIC WRESTLING COUNCIL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
T.J. JACKSON & THE MISER
(July 2, 1993; from American Scorpions & The Falcon; West Palm Beach, FL)

BIG D TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: GARY YOUNG & ROD PRICE
(November 21, 1993; defeated Terry Simms & Mike Davis for held-up title; Dallas, TX)

CANADIAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DAN JOHNSON
(November 7, 1993; won a battle royal; Toronto, Ontario)

CAROLINA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE COUNTRY CLUB
(December 4, 1993; from The East-West Connection; Smithfield, NC)

CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: RAMBO
(July 3, 1993; from Hawk; Graz, Austria)

CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI
(July 11, 1992; for vacant title over Bob Orton Jr.; Graz, Austria)

CENTURY WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:
TONY ATLAS
(December 4, 1993; from Vic Steamboat; Tewksbury, MA)

CENTURY WRESTLING ALLIANCE LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RAY ODYSSEY
(December 4, 1993; from El Mascorado; Tewksbury, MA)

CONTINENTAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: VIC STEAMBOAT
(October 23, 1993; from The Iron Shark; Wakefield, MA)

CONTINENTAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RAY ODYSSEY
(October 23, 1993; from Flex Loverd; Wakefield, MA)

ECW CHAMPION: SABU
(October 2, 1993; from Shane Douglas; Philadelphia, PA)

ECW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TASMANIAC & KEVIN SULLIVAN
(December 4, 1993; from Tommy Dreamer & Shane Douglas; substituting for Johnny Gunn; Philadelphia, PA)

ECW TELEVISION CHAMPION: SABU
(November 13, 1993; from Terry Funk; Philadelphia, PA)

FUTUREWAVE WRESTLING AUSTRALIA CHAMPION: MR. DAMAGE
(December 10, 1992; by official's decision; Melbourne, Australia)

GALAXY WRESTLING ASSOCIATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MR. HUGHES
(October 23, 1993; won 10-man battle royal; Tower City, PA)

GLWA CHAMPION: IVAN KOLOFF
(July 11, 1992; from Psycho Mike; Willowick, OH)

GWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ICEMAN PARSONS
(September 3, 1993; for held-up title over Chris Adams; Dallas, TX)

GWF LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ALEX PORTEAU
(November 26, 1993; defeated Steven Dane; Dallas, TX)

GWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHAZ TAYLOR & STEVEN DANE
(September 3, 1993; from Guido Falcone & Alex Porteau; Dallas, TX)

ICWA CHAMPION: JUMBO BARRETTA
(September 23, 1993; from Cuban Assassin; Tampa, FL)

INDEPENDENT WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
YOSHIAKI YATSU & GORO TSURUMI
(November 12, 1993; defeated Shunji Takano & Shinichi Nakano in tournament final; Yokohama, Japan)

IWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: VLADIMIR KOLOFF
(October 17, 1992; battle royal final over Thunderbolt II; Grand, OH)

IWA INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: BARRY HOROWITZ
(October 23, 1993; from Preston Steele; Warren, OH)

IWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE HELD UP
(Most recently held by The Thunderbolt)

IWC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CIEN CARAS
(November 13, 1993; defeated Konnan; San Jose, CA)

IWCCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOE SAVOLDI
(December 26, 1991; from The Terminator; Monticello, NY)

IWCCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SIOUX WAR PARTY
(May 9, 1992; tournament final over The Canadians; Hamburg, PA)

IWGP CHAMPION: SHINYA HASHIMOTO
(September 20, 1993; from The Great Muta; Nagoya, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
SCOTT NORTON & HERCULES
(August 5, 1993; from Kensuke Sasaki & Hawk; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN UGER
(January 4, 1993; from Ulfina Dragon; Tokyo, Japan)

MEWF HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE: LUCIFER
(November 14, 1993; from Margus (the Maric); Essex, MD)

NEW ZEALAND CHAMPION: A.J. FREELY
(November 23, 1992; from Bruno Bekkar; Auckland, New Zealand)

NORTH AMERICAN WRESTLING ALLIANCE CHAMPION: BUDDY SHANE
(November 13, 1993; defeated Rick Link in tournament final; Chester, SC)

PWA CHAMPION: THE HATER
(June 12, 1993; from Tommy Ferrara; Allentown, MN)

PWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LIGHTNING KID & JERRY LYNN
(September 28, 1992; for held-up title over Tony DeNucci & Tommy Ferrara; Fridley, MN)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION:
MITSUWARA MISAWA
(August 22, 1992; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSUWARA MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI
(December 3, 1993; defeated Akira Tase & Toshiaki Kawada in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:
KILLDOZER
(November 26, 1993; from Austin Steele; Kings Mountain, NC)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: STAR RYDER
(October 30, 1993; from Flaming Youth; Kings Mountain, NC)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
TERRY AUSTIN & GEORGE SOUTH
(September 17, 1993; from Flaming Youth & Chael Connection II; Kings Mountain, NC)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BRIAN LEE
(July 17, 1993; from Tracey Smothers; Johnson City, TN)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
THE HEAVENLY BODIES
(November 24, 1993; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Boston, MA)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:
BOBBY BLAZE
(October 10, 1993; from Chris Candido; Johnson City, TN)

TENNESSEE ALL-STAR WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:
TOMMY RICH
(September 23, 1993; from Buddy Landell; Maryville, TN)

TENNESSEE ALL-STAR WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
PAUL RAY & JOHNNY RAYNOR
(September 23, 1993; from Tom Farmer & Dale Rivers; Maryville, TN)

TRI-STAR WRESTLING JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:
TRACY BLACK
(November 12, 1993; from Sam Clay; Fort Oglethorpe, GA)

USWA CHAMPION: JEFF JARRET
(November 22, 1993; tournament final over Jerry Lawler; Memphis, TN)

USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: BUDDY LANDELL
(November 22, 1993; for vacant title over Jeff Jarrett; Memphis, TN)

USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE WAR MACHINES
(December 6, 1993; from Jeff Gaylord & Mike Anthony; Memphis, TN)

UWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CANADIAN VAMPIRE CASANOVA
(January 31, 1993; from El Conak; New Orleans, LA)

UWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DOUG FURNAS & DAN KROFFAT
(March 7, 1993; from The Villanos; New Orleans, LA)

UWF INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: NOBUHIKO TAKADA
(September 21, 1992; from Gary Albright; Osaka, Japan)

WCW TELEVISION CHAMPION: LORD STEVEN REGAL
(September 19, 1993; from Rick Steamboat; Houston, TX)

WCW U.S. CHAMPION: DUSTIN RHODES
(August 31, 1993; for held-up title over Rick Rude; Atlanta, GA)

WCW WORLD CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER
(March 17, 1993; from Sling; Dublin, Ireland)

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE NASTY BOYS
(October 24, 1993; from 2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell; New Orleans, LA)

WEST COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BILLY TWO EAGLES
(November 27, 1993; from "Gorgeous" Michelle Starr; Cloverdale, British Columbia)

WINDY CITY WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
THE SMITH BROTHERS
(November 13, 1993; from The Twin Turbos; Greenville, IL)

WING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CRYPT KEEPER
(August 31, 1993; from Crash the Terminator; Akita, Japan)

WWA FRONTIER MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPION: MR. ONITA
(September 19, 1992; from Tiger Jeet Singh; Yokohama, Japan)

WWA FRONTIER MARTIAL ARTS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
TARZAN GOTO & GREGORY VERICHEV
(May 24, 1992; from Haruka Boulder & Sabu Tokyo; Japan)

WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: YUKIHIRO KANEMURR
(December 18, 1992; from Miguel Perez Jr.; Fukushima, Japan)

WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
DUSTY WOLFE & MOHAMMAD HUSSEIN
(June 19, 1993; from Ricky Santana & Ray Gonzalez; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: GREG VALENTINE
(August 8, 1993; tournament final over Invader I; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: LA TIGRESSA
(April 17, 1993; from Sasha; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: RAZOR RAMON
(September 27, 1993; tournament final over Rick Martel; New Haven, CT)

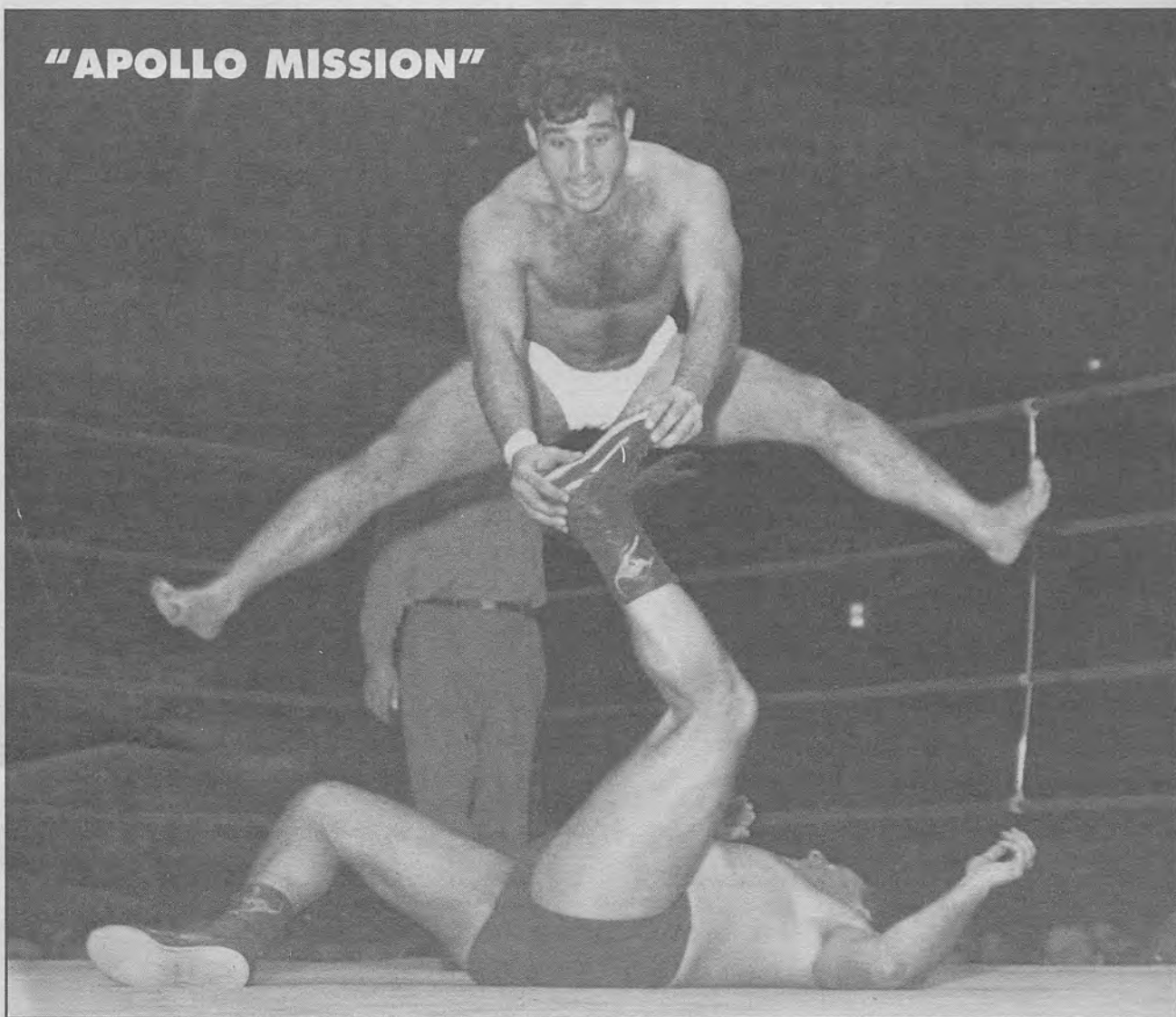
WWF WORLD CHAMPION: YOKOZUNA
(June 13, 1993; from Hulk Hogan; Dayton, OH)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE QUEBECERS
(September 13, 1993; from Rick & Scott Steiner; New York, NY)

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